

Sudan denies presence of Iranian ships

KHARTOUM (AP) — A senior Sudanese official denied Sunday that there were Iranian ships in its Port Sudan harbour on the Red Sea. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said Wednesday he has information that Iran plans to base warships at Port Sudan. He said that such a threat would justify an immediate military strike. Omar Yousef Berdu, first Foreign Ministry under-secretary, summoned an Egyptian diplomat and expressed Sudan's "astonishment and anxiety" about Mr. Mubarak's comments. Mr. Berdu said Mr. Mubarak's information was "false" and said Sudan "is concerned with the security of Egypt." He suggested that the information might have been planted by "sources bent on sowing discord between Egypt and Sudan." On Sunday in Cairo the state-owned Middle East News Agency quoted an unidentified security official as saying that security measures have been increased along the border with Libya. He said investigations showed that Sudan and Iran were sending extremists to Egypt via Libya and that some of them were involved in the attacks on tourists in Egypt. He said that a security sweep of the Mediterranean port of Alexandria resulted in the arrest of 400 suspected extremists.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Charges against Arab-American delayed

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — The filing of charges against an Arab-American accused of links to Hamas was held up by a technicality Sunday seven weeks after his arrest. Ahlam Hadad, the lawyer for Mohammad Salah, 39, said Israel was trying to build a case against the Chicago area man to justify its expulsion of 400 Palestinians, which caused international criticism of the Jewish state. Mr. Salah told reporters that his Israeli interrogator had badgered him by saying Mr. Salah was "the enemy" and had no chance of winning his case. A military official, responding to the claims by Mr. Salah and his attorney, said the case was being brought on its "own merits" and will have to stand up to all requirements of military law. The Palestinian-born suspect was brought before a military court to be charged Sunday, but the reading of charges was halted by the judge, Shlomo Isaacson, after Ms. Hadad complained she had not received a copy in advance. Mr. Salah was to be formally charged April 19. Colonel Isaacson ordered him held until proceedings against him were completed. Before being interrupted, prosecutor Dan Eilon said Mr. Salah was being charged with "being active in the Hamas and directly linked to the high-ranking and limited leadership of this organisation."

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58 held after protests in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Police arrested 58 people in Egypt after student protesters tried to burn down the guesthouse of a Christian church in the town of Qalyoub, security sources said Sunday. Police said Qalyoub, a market town just north of Cairo with no history of Muslim-Christian clashes, was calm Sunday. But they added that Saturday's unrest, which followed the punishment of a teacher and four students alleged to have played anti-Christian cassette tapes, had shaken people living in the town (see page 2).

Egypt holds 5 for 'proselytising'

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities have arrested five men, including three Americans, on suspicion of proselytising to convert Muslims to Christianity. Randy Hoffman, a senior employee of the company they work for, said the men were arrested in their homes on Feb. 21 and in the following day and still have not been charged. He identified the Americans as Robert M. Cunningham, from Massachusetts, Brian K. Eckhardt, from Iowa and Richard P. Dugan from Indiana. Hoffman said the two others are Thomas A. Martin from New Zealand and Abdul Hamid Adel Nefi, an Egyptian.

Police seize uranium from Berlin flat

BERLIN (R) — German police have seized 5 kilograms of non-weapons grade uranium from a flat in Berlin and arrested a 43-year-old Polish man, a justice spokeswoman said Sunday. Uta Foelster said police had discovered the uranium in a cellar. Thursday, but that there was no danger for the public. Smuggling of nuclear materials from former Soviet bloc countries has spread rapidly after the collapse of communism.

Gulf Air bans smoking on short flights

BAHRAIN (AP) — Gulf Air said Sunday it was banning smoking on regional routes and flights less than two hours long. Abdullah Abdul Karim, Gulf Air's public relations manager, told the Gulf News Agency that the ban will take effect after the end of Ramadan. The ban will not apply to international flights. The airline is owned by Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Maldive president preaches in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, on an official visit to Morocco, delivered a Ramadan sermon on the theme of "Islam, a religion of tolerance." The official Moroccan news agency MAP reported that King Hassan and palace and government dignitaries attended the sermon Saturday at the Soukaina Mosque in Rabat. Mr. Gayoom was the first head of state to speak at traditional religious rites held in the evening during Ramadan, when foreign preachers are invited by the king to deliver homilies on religious themes.

Kuwaiti opposition leader hails probe

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Kuwaiti opposition politician, in remarks published Sunday, hailed as unprecedented official investigations into suspected misuse of public funds. "This is something new in Kuwait. There were instances of corruption in the past but they were never referred to the judiciary," Abdullah Al Nibari was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Arab Times. "It is no longer accepted to keep things secret as the government was doing before." The opposition veteran added, "We have promises from emir (Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah) and Crown Prince (Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah) that investigation will be allowed to proceed. This is a new attitude in Kuwait and we hope it delivers the goods." Emotions are running high in the emirate over revelations of suspected corruption.

Israeli soldiers kill 3-year-old in Hebron

Gaza settlers dismiss Palestinian workers

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a three-year-old Palestinian girl who was riding in the family car in the occupied West Bank, the army said Sunday.

Huda Siq was shot Saturday night inside the city of Hebron and died in a local hospital Sunday, her father and the hospital said.

The army said the car had turned around before reaching an army roadblock and "when it did not respond to the soldiers' calls and gestures to stop, the soldiers shot at the car."

The girl's death was the latest in a surge of killing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December in reprisal for attacks on soldiers.

On Friday two Israelis — a soldier and a woman settler in the occupied Gaza Strip — were found dead and soldiers shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian boy in Hebron.

Since the expulsion on December 17, a count by Reuters shows Israelis have killed 57 Palestinians, and Palestinians have killed 10 Israelis.

In response to the wave of attacks, Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip fired their Palestinian

farm labourers Sunday and government officials called for recruiting 2,000 more police.

The cabinet, under public pressure to curb the violence, also announced that additional, still secret security steps would be taken.

The attacks also have increased fear among Israelis. The daily Maariv wrote in its editorial Sunday: "Many of us walk in the city streets with a new care. We look out for who is an Arab or who even looks like one. We are even suspicious of those with an 'Eastern' look."

One sign of the fear came last Friday in Jerusalem when police had to rescue two Israeli Arab sisters who bought a knife at a downtown shop. An angry mob suspected them of buying the knife to stab a Jew.

Police Commissioner Yaakov Turner dismissed the decision to increase police forces as a way to immediately end the violence, saying it would take six months to recruit and train the men. The added forces still must be approved by the cabinet.

Mr. Turner came under fire for his weekend statement urging Israelis who have licences for pistols to carry their weapons at all times.

"The commissioner in his deci-

sion gave everyone blanket permission to go out into the streets with their weapons.... this is grave and dangerous," said Meshulam Amit, former commander of the border police.

An estimated 300,000 Israelis have gun licences. But Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said Israel "doesn't rely on them to enforce the law."

A cabinet statement called on Israelis to act responsibly despite the attacks.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, settler leader Tzvi Hendel said he regretted the decision no longer to hire Arabs. Most Arabs just want to earn a living, he said, adding a few extremists were forcing the settlers to punish everyone.

"But it's inconceivable that in one hand they hold a hoe and receive a salary while in the other they hold a knife," Mr. Hendel said on army radio.

Israel Radio estimated the firing of Arab farm workers on settlements would leave about 1,000 men jobless in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

But the settlers, who received the land from the government virtually free and whose water is subsidised, complain they cannot afford the wages to attract Israeli

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Sarid: Gaza Strip will be PLO-led independent state

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli minister said Sunday the occupied Gaza Strip would be turned over to the Palestinians in the framework of an agreement and inevitably be an independent state led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Israel is not interested in ruling Gaza, and Gaza will be given over as soon as possible, not in a unilateral way, but in the framework of an agreement," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told Israel's army radio after the cabinet's weekly meeting devoted to a surge in Palestinian-Israeli violence.

"In order to turn over Gaza within an agreement there has to be someone to take it. No element will take Gaza other than the Palestinian element," said Mr. Sarid, of the left-wing Meretz party.

Mr. Sarid said the Palestinians "will not take Gaza without it first being known as a Palestinian state and without the PLO leadership being able to sit in Gaza."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, now in the United States, opposes the government even talking with the PLO, though

Israel this year lifted a ban against its citizens having contacts with the PLO.

Middle East peace talks stalled after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17 in reprisal for attacks on soldiers. Since the expulsions, Israelis have killed 57 Palestinians and Palestinians have killed 10 Israelis. Much of the violence has been in Gaza.

The United States and Russia, sponsors of the peace talks, last week issued invitations for them to resume in April.

The Palestinian delegation, directed by the PLO, refused the invitation, saying Israel had to pledge not to expel Arabs in the future.

Syria said Sunday U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had promised to resolve the fate of the Palestinian expellees before the resumption of peace talks.

The official daily Al Baath said Mr. Christopher had made the pledge during his tour of the Middle East last month.

It urged the U.S. administra-

U.N. experts continue hunt in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The latest team of U.N. weapons experts in Iraq continued their inspections Sunday and said their mission was going well.

"We are looking at areas that we have been asked to evaluate by the special commission and we will continue to do that," their leader, Dave Franz, told reporters.

Mr. Franz and his 20-strong team of mainly chemical and biological arms specialists arrived in Baghdad Thursday as part of United Nations efforts to strip Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

"We have been conducting inspections over the last two days under the auspices of (U.N. Resolution) 687... our inspections are going on well," Mr. Franz, an American, said.

Mr. Franz said he had spent some times at Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad where another U.N. team is destroying an estimated 45,000 chemical munitions.

He said his team had also visited a couple of sites as part of its checks on Iraq's biological weapons programme and would visit more in the coming days.

He said the Iraqis had cooperated with his mission but the U.N. was still not satisfied with their accounts of their facilities and suppliers.

Relief needs assessed

Another U.N. team is in Iraq assessing its aid needs as part of effort to renegotiate a relief agreement which expires at the end of the month, a senior U.N. official said Sunday.

"There is a (U.N.) mission in Iraq... to assess the requirements for humanitarian assistance both for relief and rehabilitation," Mohammad Zejjari, U.N. coordinator in Baghdad, told Reuters.

But he said the legal framework governing U.N. relief operations in Iraq following the expiry of the current agreement was still under discussion.

Mr. Zejjari said the world body was considering a one-year programme to replace a U.N.-Iraq pact that runs out at the end of March.

"We have a programme of one year for the period from April 1993 to March 1994," he said.

Previous U.N. aid pacts with Baghdad have been for six months only.

Saddam denies poisoning marches; Egypt says ties 'fraternal'

King, PLO envoys discuss peace process; Abu Jaber optimistic

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials Sunday discussed the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The King's talks with Fawuk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, and Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, also covered "the obstacles facing the peace process, particularly the problem of Palestinians expelled by Israel from the occupied territories in December and Israel's arbitrary practices in the occupied territories," Petra said.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Ja-



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department chief Fawuk Kaddoumi (Petra photo)

ber as well as the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Dr. Abu Jaber held an earlier round of talks with Mr. Kad-

doumi and was quoted as saying after the meeting that the crisis over the expellees which has de-

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Press law clears Parliament

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "To minimise the losses" and ensure that the draft press and publication law is completed before Parliament's current ordinary session ends on March 31, deputies Sunday endorsed the draft legislation as amended by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate).

The Senate had amended the draft legislation to restrict recognition of journalists to "those who fulfill the requirements of the current Jordan Press Association (JPA) law and took journalism as a profession." It also gave journalists the right to keep secret their sources of information unless ordered to divulge them by a court of law during trial of cases that relate to national security, attainment of justice and prevention of crime.

Among other amendments, the Senate reintroduced to the draft legislation article 56 which sets a maximum JD 1,000 fine for violations of the draft law for which there are no specified punishments.

"We have many problems with the law, but we passed it because we want it to be completed before the end of the current session of

Parliament," the chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Salim Al Zoubi told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"At least it is better than the one it will replace," he said.

Many deputies had told the Jordan Times that they had intended to introduce certain amendments to the controversial draft legislation but the House later reached a consensus to endorse the Senate's version to make sure that the draft law will be enacted into law.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Sa'id earlier told the Jordan Times his 22-member bloc at the House was planning a motion to broaden recognition of journalists to include non-JPA members. Mohammad Abu Fares said after Sunday's vote that the bloc had opted to endorse the law

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Hekmatyar hopes to form new Afghan cabinet soon

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Afghanistan's new prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said Sunday he hoped to form a new government soon and reaffirmed his support for a ceasefire accord signed last week to end bloodshed among Afghan factions.

"I sincerely abide by this accord and hope to be able to form the cabinet soon," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying shortly before ending a one-day visit to Iran.

Mr. Hekmatyar, Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks with Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjari Saturday night on the peace accord signed in Islama-

bad.

IRNA said the three leaders left Iran Sunday.

It quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as urging Islamic countries to join Iran in sending peacekeeping forces to monitor the ceasefire.

"Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to send peacekeeping forces to Afghanistan to preserve peace there. He also hoped that other Islamic countries would contribute peacekeeping forces," it said earlier Sunday in a report on separate talks with Mr. Sharif.

IRNA said Mr. Rafsanjani "voiced satisfaction" during talks with all three leaders about the accord to end fighting which has

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Morillon remains in Bosnia town, seeks Serb concession

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces shelled Srebrenica Sunday and the U.N. commander there reported people were dying as he tried to get a relief convoy into the besieged Muslim enclave.

General Philippe Morillon, who entered the town on Thursday and has decided to help the people there until the relief convoy arrives, contacted the Bosnian government Sunday with details of the city.

"There is shelling. He's trying to get the Serbs to stop," Bosnia's deputy president, Ejup Ganic, told the Associated Press after speaking with Gen. Morillon.

"He said the situation is de-

perate, people are dying," Mr. Ganic said. "He said he's busy trying to help people."

"It's a good thing he's there. We have a witness," Mr. Ganic said.

Mr. Ganic said Gen. Morillon told him he wanted to bring U.N. observers into the Srebrenica area to check reports that Serb reinforcements were being sent in.

Mr. Ganic said he got the impression that Gen. Morillon would stay in Srebrenica until the Serbs met at least some of his demands — allow in the nine-truck food convoy, opening an air

(Continued on page 5)

Algeria seeks blueprint for future

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's leaders and opposition politicians started hesitant talks Sunday to chart a future for their crisis-torn country.

At stake is the very identity of the country which abandoned an experiment with democracy in January 1992 and has since suffered Muslim fundamentalist unrest, a worsening economy, and the assassination of its head of state.

"They have to decide whether they are going to separate the state from religion or become an Islamic state," said a European diplomat on the eve of the talks.

"They are searching for an identity, but I am pessimistic. The leaders talk of a 'modern state' but they have to recognise that attachment to the FIS (the Islamic Salvation Front) is still widespread."

The FIS, seeking a state ruled by Islamic law, took a huge lead in the first round of a general election before the authorities cancelled it in January 1992.

The party was outlawed and its members have since been blamed for violence which killed more than 600 people last year and at least 105 so far this year.

Head of State Mohammed Boudiaf was shot dead in June 1992.

In theory, the army-backed, five-man leadership headed by Ali Kafi should step down at the end of December and is seeking some consensus over what will fill the gap.

But there are already suggestions that this may not happen. Sunday's talks were the first with politicians — leaders of the former ruling National Liberation

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U.N. troops mobilise for Somali pay dispute

MOGADISHU (R) — A tense round of pay negotiations between the United Nations and some 900 redundant Somali security guards ended in deadlock Sunday with a show of strength by foreign troops helping to prevent any violence.

U.S. and U.N. troops had deployed in force as a delegation of five guards met officials of the World Food Programme (WFP), which hired the men to protect relief supplies at Mogadishu port before U.S. troops arrived in December.

WFP says it paid the men up to Dec. 12, four days after they stopped working, but the guards are demanding salaries for all of December, January and February.

"Basically they are looking for protection money," one WFP official told Reuters.

About 800 people demonstrated in their support outside the WFP office and a nearby compound rented by the U.S. charity Care but most had dispersed by the time negotiations began.

Many Somalis sympathise with the guards, saying that the number of jobs available to Somalis has diminished since the foreign

troops came in to protect food for the hungry.

Some of the guards have threatened to attack U.N. agencies and relief organisations if their demands are not met.

"If they refuse to give us our money, they are insulting the Somali people and we will tell the people to fight them," said Abd-nasser Sheikh Mohammad, who described himself as the commander of a "technical battalion" of 110 men.

A "technical" is the Somali term for a truck or pick-up fitted with a heavy weapon. Clan militias use such vehicles in the fighting which has largely ended since the Americans intervened.

U.S. and U.N. forces took extra security precautions from dawn Sunday. U.N. helicopters circled the city for two hours and U.S. Marines set up new checkpoints to search for arms.

Two armoured personnel carriers manned by Pakistani U.N. troops were deployed at the WFP compound and sharpshooters:

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Donors pledge \$142 million; regional autonomy key to peace deal, page 2

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U.N. fails to reach aid donation goal for Somalia

\$142m pledged; donors uneasy over anarchy

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The United States and other nations pledged \$142 million Saturday to feed and rebuild Somalia. U.N. officials said, but the donations fell short of U.N. requests largely because of security concerns.

The pledges came at the end of a three-day aid conference in the Ethiopian capital in which donor nations and relief groups threatened to cut funding or pull out of Somalia unless Somalia move to end persistent violence and make progress in peace talks this week.

The 15 factions fighting for power in the ravaged country attended the talks and said they would work for peace at negotiations that begin next week.

The United Nations had asked for \$166.5 million for food aid and development projects this year, but some countries involved in Somalia — including Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark and Italy — refused to give more until conditions improve.

The United Nations said \$142 million was pledged, including \$43 million from the European Community (EC), \$30 million from the United States, \$20.7 million from Germany and \$20 million from Japan.

Of the package, \$29 million will pay for food while the rest will be spent on development, the United Nations said.

Three foreign aid workers have been killed this year in Somalia. Bandits have robbed or extorted money from relief groups, and rioting and clan fighting have interrupted food deliveries despite the presence of the U.S.-led military coalition that has been in Somalia since December.

"Rehabilitation activities will be expanded only as security permits and will be directed to those areas of the country where there is capacity and willingness of local groups to be involved," said Richard Cobb of the U.S. delegation.

Italian delegate Ranieri Tallarigo told Somali representatives at the conference: "Help us to help you."

"There can be no rehabilitation process without a full commitment to national reconciliation," Mr. Tallarigo said.

Denmark said it spent \$7.5 million on Somalia last year but could not say how much it would pledge for 1993 until there is "improvement in the security situation."

"The primary responsibility lies with the people of Somalia," said Danish envoy Sten Liholt.

The EC made the largest pledge. However, Keran J. O'Connell, EC special envoy to Somalia, said the money not be forthcoming until an EC commission visits Somalia to determine if security is sufficient in the country to permit the funding.

The envoy did not specify what level of security conditions the commission would find satisfactory.

Conference Chairman Jan Eliasson, who is also the U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said he was not disappointed by the aid pledges.

"We are definitely being given enough to begin this programme," he said in an interview. "But the main problem for the donors is the security in the area and the reconciliation process."

The money will be used to try to restart the Somali economy and ease the country's dependence of food aid.

A hopeful sign for the outcome of the peace talks, which was to begin Monday in Addis Ababa, came late Saturday when the 15 factions issued a statement calling for peace.

"We realise that peace and stability is a prerequisite to achieve a meaningful recovery and rehabilitation programme," said the joint statement, read by Hussein Eladeh Fahiyeh, vice-chairman of the Somali Democratic Alliance. But Abdul Khadi Oman Yusuf, a community leader from Mogadishu, and other Somali leaders called for more U.N. help in creating a strong police force.

Somali has been without a government since dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was driven from power in January 1991.

Mr. Cobb said Washington anticipated spending a total of about \$190 million in food and non-food assistance to Somalia during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, including the aid pledged during the conference.

Much of the \$190 million has already been spent and does not include the money used for the deployment of U.S. troops.

The United Nations said it had also received pledges from Sweden — \$7 million, Holland — \$5.6 million, Norway — \$5 million, Turkey — \$4 million, Ireland — \$3 million, France — \$2.5 million, Switzerland — \$1.1 million, South Korea — \$100,000, and Cameroon \$3,600.

Saddam denies poisoning marshes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has dismissed Western reports that his government was poisoning southern marshes inhabited by rebellious Shiites as repulsive and fabricated.

"Imagine the low extent your enemies have indulged in. Imagine how evil they are when they claim that we are poisoning water used by our people," Baghdad newspapers quoted President Saddam Sunday as telling a group of Shiite leaders in Baghdad.

"I cannot imagine a government poisoning water for its own people...where did they get this news from?" President Saddam asked.

London's Observer weekly reported last month that Iraq had launched a campaign of repression against southern Shiite Muslims in which Iraqi forces poisoned water supplies.

The Observer's report by its correspondent Shyam Bhatia, who said he spent 10 days with Shiites in Iraq's southern marshlands, said the new Iraqi onslaught included plans to poison rivers in the marshlands. Medical experts had detected chemical traces in the waters, it said.

The West imposed a "no-fly" zone over much of the Shiite south to protect dissidents hiding in the marshland following the collapse of a short rebellion in the wake of the Gulf war.

Baghdad's opponents say Iraqi engineers and army are diverting tributaries of the Tigris River into a canal flowing to the southern city of Basra and have dammed the Euphrates River to channel its waters into the Gulf. Iraq denies this.

As President Saddam spoke, 339 tribal chiefs from Basra brandished their guns, hoisted banners and shouted the hush (wacry).

The tribal delegation was the third received by Saddam in less than one month from the area policed by western aircraft.



Iraqi Shiite families visit the holy shrines in Najaf Sunday, on the anniversary of Imam Ali (AFP photo)

Iran finances New Jersey Muslim cleric — Newsweek

NEW YORK (R) — Iran secretly bankrolled the radical Muslim cleric whose followers are suspected of involvement in New York's World Trade Centre bombings, Newsweek Magazine reports.

According to the magazine, the money trail between Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and Tehran is "the biggest investigative lead yet" in the probe into the Feb. 26 bombing.

The explosion killed five people, injured more than 1,000 and crippled the 110-story twin towers on the fringe of Manhattan's financial district. One person is still missing.

Newsweek said U.S. intelligence and State Department sources would not specify the amount of "the subsidy" or the frequency of the payments to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, the spiritual leader of an Egyptian fundamentalist group seeking the overthrow of the government of Hosni Mubarak.

But it said intelligence officials have evidence of money being funneled from Iran to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who preaches at a Jersey City, New Jersey, mosque, through one of his wives in Egypt.

The magazine said no connection had yet been made between Tehran and German wire transfers to U.S. bank accounts held by two suspects arrested in the trade centre bombing — Mohammad Salameh and Nidal Ayyad.

But it said the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was looking for evidence that funds from Germany had the same Iranian origins.

Mr. Ayyad was born in Kuwait, but his parents are Palestinian. Mr. Salameh is a Palestinian, raised in Jordan.

A third person, Egyptian-born Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, is also being held in the case. He was arrested on charges of assaulting two federal agents who were searching his apartment.

Prosecutors said at Mr. Gabrowny's court hearing that he was considered a suspect in the bombing, but they have not disclosed what link he might have had.

Mr. Salameh and Mr. Gabrowny have ties to Al Sayid Nosair, who is serving a prison term for assault and weapons possession in connection with the killing of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in November 1990.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has condemned the trade centre bombing and says he was not involved in any way. But his fiery sermons repeatedly call for violence on behalf of Islam and authorities have said that his group is a focus of the blast investigation.

Newsweek said both the Sheikh and his lawyer had denied that he received any foreign subsidy.

The magazine noted that Thomas McNamara, the U.S. State Department's top counter-terrorism official, told a congressional committee last week that Iran "continues to be the most serious and deadly sponsor of international terrorism."

It added that U.S. experts say Iran has been "a major underwriter of Islamic terror in Egypt" where Sheikh Abdul Rahman was acquitted of charges that he ordered the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Egyptian police tear-gas students

QALYUB, Egypt (Agencies) — Egyptian riot police fired tear-gas to disperse a protest by stone-throwing school students, some of whom tried to burn down the guest house of a Christian church, a police officer said.

A doctor at the local hospital in Qalyub, a market town just north of Cairo, said three women had been slightly hurt in the demonstrations Saturday afternoon.

The police officer, who asked not to be named, said six police had minor injuries from being hit by stones.

The incident shook residents of Qalyub, which has no history of Christian-Muslim clashes. But it showed how tensions have been rising in Egypt as political violence involving Muslim militants has surged over the past year, killing about 100 people.

Police and residents said the students were protesting at a decision by the Education Ministry to transfer a teacher and suspend four teenage girls accused of playing an anti-Christian cassette tape in class.

As part of a government campaign against militants, the Education Ministry is punishing teachers who spread what it considers to be extremist religious views. Local Muslims complained that in this case, the ministry had acted without a proper investigation.

According to other reports Saturday protests were staged by families of pupils who were fired from school for circulating tapes of blind radical preacher Omar Abdul Rahman.

A police official, who refused to be identified by name, told the AP the protest came when authorities refused to allow the four girls back to their secondary school.

The pupils and their teacher were fired earlier this month after authorities discovered that they were circulating the cleric's tapes in the United States for almost three years, has been linked to the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing. Two of the men arrested for suspected involvement in the blast prayed at a storefront mosque in New Jersey were the cleric preaches.

The Sheikh was charged and acquitted of sanctioning the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. He has been sending tapes from the United States calling for holy war against President Hosni Mubarak's secular regime and denouncing tourism as sinful.

Charred pieces of wood and burnt Christian books littered the street outside the church guest-house, a four-story building opposite a mosque. Scores of riot police sealed off streets in the centre of the town late into the night.

Police said 13 people, mostly school students, had been arrested.

Militants of Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) are fighting to overthrow the government.

Egyptian consul: Iraq ties 'fraternal'

NICOSIA (AP) — Egypt's newly-appointed consul to Iraq describes his mission as a good step towards restoration of solidarity between Cairo and Baghdad, an Iraqi newspaper reported Sunday.

The diplomat, Rida Abdul Karim, told the daily Al Thawra that "what causes agony to the Iraqi people hurts the Egyptian people as well, because we are all brothers," the official Iraqi news Agency (INA) said.

Mr. Abdul Karim, who arrived in Baghdad Friday, is the first Egyptian diplomat assigned to Iraq since Cairo cut diplomatic relations following the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt was a leading member of the U.S.-led coalition that forced Iraqi troops from the emirate seven months later. Its interests have been handled through two administrative attaches operating through the Indian embassy.

Turkey, another member of the coalition, reopened its diplomatic mission in Baghdad this month.

In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the news agency reported that Mr. Abdul Karim told Al Thawra that a key aim of his mission was "overcoming difficulties and problems that the Egyptian community in Iraq faces."

The paper, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, did not elaborate. Many Egyptians have faced repercussions from their country's anti-Iraq position during the Gulf crisis.

The INA report said Mr. Abdul Karim "expressed his

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Police investigate Cyprus link to arms shipment

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus police are investigating whether a Cyprus-based offshore company was involved in a shipment of Serbian arms to Somalia, a newspaper reported Sunday. The company, which was not identified, was named in a bill of lading on a Greek-flagged ship impounded last month in the Seychelles after it was found to be carrying Serb guns and ammunition bound for Somalia, the Cyprus Mail said.

"The police are carrying out an investigation based on information received that the ship's documents names an offshore company in Cyprus. We are investigating whether this company exists or not," police spokesman Savvas Antoniadis told the paper. The Central Bank of Cyprus announced last week that it was tightening controls to ensure strict enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia. There have been foreign reports that said offshore Yugoslav banks and businesses based in Cyprus were violating the sanctions.

Remains of 50 Algerians found in mass grave

ALGIERS (R) — The remains of 50 Algerian fighters, killed during the 1954-1962 independence war against France, have been found in east Algeria, the official news agency APS reported Sunday. Surviving guerrillas said the group was heading for Tunisia for weapons when French soldiers killed them in a battle and buried them in a mass grave in Beni Mezelme, Guelma province, about 80 kilometres from the frontier. APS said the remains would be reburied on March 19.

Sudan tightens grip on Egyptian university

NICOSIA (R) — Sudanese authorities have begun to install a new administration in the Khartoum branch of Cairo University taken over by Sudan last week. Sudanese radio said Sunday. It quoted Al Nilein (Two Niles) University vice chancellor Professor Ibrahim Hajjar, as saying new staff members would be appointed in a week's time. Sudan took over the university and sacked its vice-chancellor less than three months after annexing a number of Egyptian schools. State television said last Tuesday Education Minister Ibrahim Ahmad Omar had revoked a licence granted to Egypt in 1955 for the establishment of Cairo University, Khartoum branch, and renamed the institution Nilein University. Mr. Omar said the government was seeking to expand higher education in Sudan and bring home Sudanese students learning abroad.

Curfew suspended in Khartoum for Ramadan

KHARTOUM (R) — Military authorities announced a suspension of the curfew in Khartoum for the remainder of the Holy Month of Ramadan, ending in about 10 days. The curfew has been in force throughout Sudan since military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir seized power on June 30, 1989. The official Sudan news agency said the midnight to 4 a.m. curfew would be enforced again after the first day of the Eid Feast following the holy fast.

Qatari emir pardons 79 prisoners

DOHA (AP) — Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, pardoned 79 prisoners on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the approach of the feast of 'Eid Al Fitr, the official Qatari News Agency reported Sunday. The agency did not give any further details.

Regional autonomy seen as key to Somalia peace deal

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

MOGADISHU — The United Nations and the United States, making a virtue of necessity, are steering Somali politicians towards provincial autonomy as a first step towards reuniting a country fragmented into clan fiefdoms.

In preparations for a national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa this week — the largest gathering of Somali leaders since rebels drove President Mohammad Siad Barre out of power two years ago — the two mediators are telling the Somalis it is too early to start work on a national government.

Most of the 16 Somali factions and 200 other prominent Somalis expected in Addis Ababa are in favour of devolving power to the regions anyway because of their unhappy experience with centralised government under Mr. Siad Barre.

U.S. and allied forces in Somalia, where they have intervened in the country's complicated clan politics, have concentrated on building up local police forces and encouraging Somalis to solve local disputes peacefully.

"Our hope is that regional structures will be gradually established. Some of the most pressing problems, such as reconciling squatters and displaced people, must be settled regionally," said one of the people helping prepare the talks.

"Somalis are generally for local autonomy," he added.

Most of the main factions have included decentralisation in their political manifestos and all 16 agreed to put regional autonomy on the agenda for the Addis Ababa conference.

"We want democracy at a local level," said Issa Mohammad Siad, head of the foreign relations department in the faction led by Mogadishu warlord General Mohammad Farah Aidede.

"Governors, for example, must be chosen by the local people."

The Somali Democratic Movement, a group which represents the large Rahanweyn clan, says it is proposing a federal system dividing

Somalia into four clan-based states — one for its own clan and one for each of the Hawiye, the Darod and the Isaaq.

Devolving power also bypasses the problem of Somaliland, the unrecognised republic proclaimed by the Isaaq-dominated Somali National Movement (SNM) in the northwest in May 1991.

Many Somalis in the south say that they understand the Isaaq's reasons for secession — the clan suffered more than most under Mr. Siad Barre — and that they do not intend to force them back into union with the rest of the country.

"The main thing we are proposing is that we should not talk of forming a government. We are prepared to

talk of interim administration (by a civil service)," said Abdul Karim Ahmad Ali, secretary-general of General Aidede's group.

"If we talk of a government now, that will only encourage secession (by Somaliland)," he added. "Our policy is to let them choose unity, not to force it."

Adopting regional autonomy as a principle also matches the present reality of Somalia, where no armed group controls more than a fraction of the country.

Even the SNM government in the north has little influence outside the centre of the northern capital Hargeisa.

"The political programme of the SNM has always depended on a heavily decentralised system of government," said the vice president of Somaliland, Hassan Issa Jama.

One exception is the faction led by Ali Mahdi Muhammad, Gen. Aidede's rival in Mogadishu and the man chosen as interim president of Somalia after Mr. Siad Barre's government fell.

Mr. Ali Mahdi, apparently because of his claim to the presidency, had wanted to submit a draft constitution to the Addis Ababa conference but the United Nations managed to talk him out of it, political sources said.

"The United Nations felt that a government of national unity would have to include all the factions and would be too weak to achieve anything," one source said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00... Empires
19:00... News in French
19:15... Magazine Sportif
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... Step by Step
21:10... Martin Bay
22:00... News in English
22:30... Jordan Weekly
22:40... Vietnam

PRAYER TIMES

06:26... Fajr
05:43... (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:45... Dhuha
15:09... 'Asr
17:47... Maghrib
19:04... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasants Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Amman... 3/11
Aqaba... 9/20

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad... 846070
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh... 883880
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa... 720556
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem... 620115
Fire... 661912
Ferdows pharmacy... 778338
Al Asma pharmacy... 637055
Al Nour pharmacy... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy... 636730
Yaazib pharmacy... 644945
Shimacian pharmacy... 637660
Najib pharmacy... 847632
REDD:
Dr. Ali Al Omari... (—)
Alquds pharmacy... (—)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111
Civil Defence Department... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate... 630341
Rescue... 199
Rescue Police... 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade... 891228
Blood Bank... 775121
Highway Police... 843402
Traffic Police... 896390
Public Security Department... 630321
Hotel Complaints... 605800
Police Complaints... 661176
Water and Sewerage... 897467
Complaints... 897467
Amman Municipality... 787111
Telephone Information... 121
(Directory assistance)
Overseas Calls... 010230
Central Amman Telephone... 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs... 661101
Jordan Television... 773111
Radio Jordan... 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre... 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann... 64281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann... 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity... 642652
Mafes, J. Amman... 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani... 664171/4
Shmiciani Hospital... 669131
Army, Mar... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital... 6224050
Amal Hospital... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital... (09)900560
Bin Sina Hospital... (09)96732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital... (09)90990
REDD:

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15... Senaa (RJ)
08:00... Jodda (RJ)
09:15... Riyadh (RJ)
09:30... Damascus (RJ)
09:45... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00... New Delhi (RJ)
10:15... Beirut (RJ)
10:45... Cairo (RJ)
19:10... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:20... Bangkok, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15... Aden (AL)
09:35... Cairo (MS)
12:40... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
16:30... Khartoum (SU)
16:35... Istanbul (TK)
18:30... Laraca (OS)
19:00... Dubai, Damascus (EM)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15... Beirut (RJ)
10:25... London (RJ)
11:15... Toronto Montreal (RJ)
12:10... London (RJ)
12:15... Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45... Cairo (RJ)
20:00... Doha (RJ)
20:30... Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
20:30... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15... Beirut (ME)
10:25... Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg
Apple... 700/550
Banana (Mukamar)... 700/700
Banana (Mukamar)... 640/640
Beans... 1100/900
Carrot... 100/50
Cauliflower... 200/150
Cucumbers (large)... 150/100
Cucumbers (small)... 300/200
Eggplant... 280/180
Garlic... 800/600
Grapes... 200/150
Lemon... 370/300
Marrow (large)... 300/200
Mint... 440/350
Onion (dry)... 100/100
Onion (green)... 210/180
Orange... 220/160
Pepper (hot)... 480/320
Pepper (sweet)... 800/600
Potato... 600/400
Tomato... 220/140
Spinach... 150/60

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Suharto on re-election

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Indonesian President Suharto, congratulating him on his re-election and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince hosts Ifar, attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday hosted an Ifar at an Air Force base in honour of Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence officers. Prince Hassan later attended a graduation ceremony for Air Force officers. The Crown Prince thanked the graduates for their efforts during the training and urged them to exert more effort to maintain and further develop their professional military skills. At the end of the ceremony, Prince Hassan awarded certificates to graduates and awards to those who excelled in their training. The ceremony was attended by the Chief of Staff of the Royal Air Force and senior Royal Air Force officers.

Jordan recognises ex-Czech republics

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Royal Decrees were issued Sunday endorsing two Cabinet decisions to recognise the republics of Slovakia and Czech, and designating Jordan's ambassador to Austria as non-resident ambassador to both republics.

PSD reports 75% fewer murders

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday said the number of premeditated murders dropped by 75 per cent during the second week of March. A PSD weekly statistical bulletin said one of these murders was motivated by revenge. The bulletin also said smuggling cases during that week dropped from 9 to 6; a decrease of 33.3 per cent. It said the number of crimes reported rose to 15, and added that thefts accounted for 43 per cent of the total. The remaining 57 per cent included cases of fraud, suicide, arson and festive firing.

Amnesty branch celebrates women's day

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on women's rights was organised Sunday at the University of Jordan as part of the ongoing celebrations by Amnesty International's Amman Branch of International Women's Day. Participants in the seminar discussed world constitutions and laws handling women's rights. They stressed the need to study systems to benefit from their positive aspects in order to put them into practice. The participants also discussed violations of women's rights and repressive measures taken against them in various parts of the world, particularly in the occupied Arab territories.

JUST holds seminar on expellees

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar on the plight of the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel last December to southern Lebanon was held Sunday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Speakers at the seminar which was organised by the cultural and information committee of the JUST Students' Federation included Lower House of Parliament members Yousef Al Azem and Abdul Rahim Al Ukour, in addition to an official from the Palestinian embassy.

Delinquents rehabilitated

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Social Defence Department of the Ministry of Social Development Ismail Abdul Qader Sunday said the philosophy of the department is based on the need to protect the society and citizens from social vices and to combat crimes and delinquency. Mr. Abdul Qader said crimes are considered as a form of malfunction in the society, and therefore should be addressed by taking measures aiming to reform individuals and identify the circumstances which led to them. The department, Mr. Abdul Qader said, studies cases of delinquents referred to it from civic courts.

Petroleum refinery sales rise

AMMAN (Petra) — The sales of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company of oil derivatives during January and February this year amounted to 603,281 metric tonnes, against 575,601 metric tonnes in the same period last year, according to company sources. The sources said the company's sales of liquid gas rose by 14 per cent, gasoline by nine per cent and fuel oil by 11 per cent, and its sales of kerosene and diesel dropped by two per cent and nine per cent respectively.

Produce sales exceed 60,000 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 60,300 tonnes of fruits and vegetables were sold at Amman, Irbid and Zarqa wholesale markets last February, of which 57,500 were from local produce, 1,126 tonnes were imported from foreign markets and 1,681 were imported from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) said 70.7 per cent of the total volume were sold at the Amman central, 21.6 per cent in Irbid and 7.7 per cent in Zarqa. Of the produce offered at these markets, tomatoes accounted for 28.1 per cent, potatoes (17.2 per cent), oranges (8.1 per cent) cauliflower (6.7 per cent), mandarins (5.7 per cent), cucumbers (4.5 per cent), cabbage (3.8 per cent), lemons (3.5 per cent), carrots (2.7 per cent), onions and bananas (2.3 per cent each), apples (1.8 per cent) and the rest of vegetables and fruits (13.3 per cent).

Tafileh combats drought, unemployment

TAFILEH (Petra) — A special committee in charge of addressing drought and unemployment problems in Tafileh Governorate implemented several agricultural and water projects at a total cost of JD 483,180, according to Tafileh Governor Mohammad Al Telhouni, who is also the committee's chairman. Mr. Telhouni said the Higher Committee on Drought, which was formed in accordance with the prime minister's instructions, allocated JD 500,000 in 1990 to address the unemployment problem by providing job opportunities in water and agricultural projects. These projects include the maintenance of canals, springs construction of new agricultural roads and maintenance of existing ones. He said the government has also allocated JD 114,000 for the maintenance of roads and construction of boundary walls and culverts.

Balqa governor inspects road projects

SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah Sunday inspected work on the new eight-kilometre Eira-Al Karamah Road and the 20-kilometre Salt-Eira Jordan Valley Road. The director of the Balqa Public Works Department said the project has thus far cost the department JD 450,000. He said the department has allocated JD 130,000 to be spent on road projects in 1993.

Karak governor discusses councils' debts with bank official

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim Sunday met with Director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank Zuhair Khalifeh and discussed with him issues related to the debts of the local councils in the governorate. The two officials also discussed loan applications by some of the municipal councils in the governorate and ways to allocate funds for joint services councils out of a sum of JD 342,480 appropriated by the Cabinet.

Ajloun to raise assistance to needy

AJLOUN (Petra) — The Ajloun Social Development Department Sunday decided to extend JD 3,000 in recurrent assistance to 106 needy families in the Ajloun district, the director of the department said. The director said the department has decided to raise the ceiling of recurrent assistance to some families, thus raising the total monthly assistance paid to the needy in the district to JD 5,474. The department offers JD 30,000 every month to 1,057 needy families.

Arab educational systems should include human rights, but various obstacles remain in the way — Mahafza

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As part of an Arab effort to promote human rights in the region, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan plans to actively participate in the Vienna Conference on Human Rights to be held in June.

In adopting an Arab perspective regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, the organisation holds its National Conference today at the Royal Cultural Centre. Its aim is to tackle human rights issues in the Arab World as well as in Jordan and their relation to democracy, development and peace.

Three weeks ago, representatives of human rights organisations in the Arab countries, as well as representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO) met in Tunis to discuss how best to include human rights in the educational systems of the Arab countries as well as find ways to raise public awareness of the

basic principles of democracy and liberty.

In a paper submitted to the Tunis conference by President of the Yarmouk University Ali Mahafza, an overall view of the human rights situation in the Arab World and the main obstacles to its development were thoroughly examined.

"The response in the Arab countries to the calls for including human rights in the educational system was and still is very slow," said Dr. Mahafza in his paper.

"The responsibility of all the catastrophes suffered by the Arab peoples falls mainly upon the Arab intellectuals rather than on the leaders or the regimes... every one is involved, at various degrees, in the massacre of Arab human rights and liberties. If they haven't participated in creating it, they at least participated in justifying it or sleeping on it," he said.

According to Dr. Mahafza, strenuous efforts have been exerted in the human rights arena especially after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978 and 1982 and

the 1990 Iraq-Kuwait crisis. These crises have prompted intellectuals to rethink and analyse the causes behind Arab successive defeats which, according to Dr. Mahafza, are attributable to the absence of popular participation in political action, continuous violation of human rights and the weak popular response to eliminate such practices.

"Perhaps the most difficult thing is to promote education based on human rights in societies where democracy is totally absent or where it is practised in an incomplete manner"

"There is no doubt that there is a strong trend in the Arab countries towards an education based upon the respect for human rights," he said. "But this stream's efforts are dispersed and lack unity," he said.

The main obstacles to the application of human rights in the Arab countries are political, social, ideological and academic, Dr. Mahafza maintained.

At the political level, there is a noticeable absence of popular

political participation in decision-making, in addition to the dominance of the one-party rule in most of the Arab countries.

Also, educational programmes and textbooks are consecrated to serving the interests of the governing regimes. In countries where democracy and political parties exist, Dr. Mahafza claims human rights issues are

On the social level, the backwardness in the Arab societies, taking into account that 50 per cent of the Arab population is illiterate, is a main factor contributing to the people's lack of awareness of their rights.

Traditions and conventions and particular social notions that contradict human rights and democracy also play a major role; "What the child will learn at school concerning human rights and his basic freedoms are in sharp contradiction to what he lives and practices within his family and his surrounding environment," he said.

Other social barriers that are prevalent include the familial, tribal and ethnic affiliations in the Arab societies, where the individual is lost if he is separate from the family, the tribe or the religious sect he belongs to.

To him, the state cannot replace or provide him with the same protection.

At the ideological level, imitating (the West), the absence of creative thinking and the dominance of emotions pose serious hindrances to the introduction of human rights in the educational

system, Dr. Mahafza maintained. The absence of analytical thinking and the rejection or condemnation of opposition as blasphemous acts are cornerstones of the crises that democracy and liberty encounter.

"Perhaps the most difficult thing is to promote education based on human rights in societies where democracy is totally absent, or where it is practised in an incomplete manner," the paper reads.

In an effort to offer alternatives or steps that should be adopted to promote human rights in the Arab countries, Dr. Mahafza proposed that certain groups of intellectuals should be formed to lobby for human rights; consecrating their time and effort to promoting these rights.

"Human rights are included in many countries' constitutions," he said. "But this does not guarantee that the Arab individual fully enjoys the rights and liberties stipulated by these laws."

The introduction of some of these rights in certain constitutions are sometimes used as a tool to cover up for the oppressive nature of the regime.

Jordan, Syria review annual sports agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister Youth of Saleh Irsheidat discussed with a visiting Syrian delegation, headed by President of the Syrian Olympic Committee Samih Al Mudallal the initial framework of a bilateral sports agreement.

At a meeting held at the Ministry of Youth, both officials stressed the need for further enhancing relations in the sport and youth fields.

They also called for exchanging visits between sports delegations from both countries and for holding joint training camps.

The two officials agreed to coordinate stands on various sports and youth events and decided to form a joint technical committee to draw up the final framework of a sport agreement which is renewed annually.

Later Mr. Mudallal and the Syrian delegation accompanying him visited the Jordan Olympic Committee and met with its president, Mawaffaq Al Faraz, who reviewed the committee's plans and objectives and means of enhancing relations between the Syrian and Jordanian Olympic committees. Mr. Mudallal also visited Hussein Youth City and toured its various facilities. Mr. Mudallal arrived here Saturday on a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Dr. Irsheidat and senior Youth Ministry officials.

Digs uncover important sites in Tafileh region

TAFILEH (Petra) — Archaeological excavations in Tafileh governorate have revealed many important discoveries in and around Tafileh, according to Director of Tafileh Antiquities Office Jihad Darwish.

Mr. Darwish said the office, in cooperation with antiquities and archaeological teams, have uncovered an important archaeological site in Ein Dahla, including village and ancient agricultural settlements.

The office also discovered rectangular rooms with tiled courts, linked to an old temple dating back to the Nabatean era.

The rooms are part of Al Sarih Village Project in Tafileh governorate.

Mr. Darwish said the antiquities office carried out several archaeological survey in the governorate last year in cooperation with Arab and foreign archaeological expert missions.

Jordan to take part in Vienna UNRWA meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in the Near East which will open in Vienna today.

Jordan is represented at the meetings by an official delegation headed by Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Irsheid, who left for Vienna Sunday.

Dr. Irsheid told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, prior to his

departure that UNRWA's budget will be the main issue under discussion at the several-day meetings.

The meetings will also discuss measures taken by the agency to collect medical fees from Palestinian refugees as of next July, he said.

Taking part in the meetings are delegations representing the U.S., the United Kingdom, Belgium, Turkey and Japan, in addition to countries hosting Palestinian refugees — Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

CONDOLENCES

The committee and members of the British Ladies of Amman wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Col. A. Gardiner and his family on the sad loss of his beloved wife

DORIS

As a founder member of the B.L.A. She will be remembered with affection and sadly missed.

Correction

Sunday a report inadvertently read that Mutha University President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit was appointed president of Al Al Bait Foundation. It should have read Dr. Al Bakhit was appointed President of Al Al Bait University by a Royal Decree.



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Cabinet reduces costs of new Aqaba housing

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Yousef Hiyasat Sunday said the corporation today will start recalculating prices of housing units in the Shalleh neighbourhood in Aqaba, in implementation of a Cabinet decision.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hiyasat said the recomputation process was called for by the Cabinet following an examination of a report prepared by the HUDC on the cost of the housing units built in the Shalleh neighbourhood to replace old and dilapidated buildings.

The corporation's report estimated the selling prices, allowing for an additional reduction in the prices to suit the financial situation of the people who would benefit from the housing project.

Mr. Hiyasat said that based on that report, the Cabinet decided to reduce the price of each square metre from JD 9 to JD5.5.

Trade group will seek new markets in Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), headed by association president Samih Darwazah, Sunday left for Germany on a four-city tour that includes Frankfurt, Berlin, Bonn and Hamburg.

In a departure statement Mr. Darwazah said the delegation, which includes representatives of the industrial and commercial sectors, will hold meetings with German exporters and importers, as well as with bank cooperative officials and heads of German companies interested in starting joint ventures in Jordan.

One of the objectives of the delegation's tour is to search for new markets for Jordanian industries, to replace the traditional Gulf markets, Mr. Darwazah said.

He said Jordanian products are of high quality and be voiced hope that they can compete with other products in the German and East European markets.

The tour was organised by the JTA in cooperation with the German embassy in Amman, the German Federal Ministry of Economy and the Federation of German Chambers of Industry and Trade.

Similar Jordanian delegations had earlier visited Russia, Austria, Sudan, and Lebanon in search of new markets.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Present Islamic World in Photos and News" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zayurak — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

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- 35 Travel Agent
- 14 Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- 59 Catering/Gourmet Cooking
- 20 Medical/Dental Office Assistant
- 51 Fashion Merchandising
- 33 Motorcycle Repair
- 52 Surveying & Mapping
- 22 Wildlife/Forestry Conservation
- 47 Animal Care Specialist
- 260B Building Trades
- 106 General Business
- 16 Practical English
- 89 Small Engine Repair
- 50 Starting Your Own Business
- 08 Legal Assistant
- 69 Computer Programming in COBOL
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Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Marriage of the two banks here to stay

THE LATEST Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) elections brought to the fore once again the legal implications of the 1988 decision to break all legal and administrative relations between Jordan and the West Bank. Many lawyers who participated in last week's elections challenged the election of Dr. Kamal Nasser as president of JBA on account of the fact that 150 lawyers from the West Bank took part in the elections. Their main bone of contention is the proposition that by virtue of the decision to break legal and administrative relations between the two banks, the 150 lawyers who cast their votes on March 5 were not truly Jordanian citizens.

To buttress their argument, they referred to an earlier verdict by the High Court of Justice that viewed the 1988 decision as an exercise of a "sovereignty" right and its legal import is fully binding.

On the strength of that judicial interpretation, the people of the West Bank, who were Jordanian citizens, are deemed as no longer so. The best evidence of this, they point out, is the refusal of the authorities to grant them regular passports and the restrictions placed on their presence in the Kingdom.

The controversy over the legal interpretation of the 1988 decision to break legal and administrative ties with the West Bank will not end even though the High Court of Justice has in fact made a "political" attempt to construe it in a manner consistent with national policy on the subject.

Jurists, nevertheless, will find the current binding interpretation wanting on many grounds, one of which is the constitutional and legal constraints that do not allow the revocation of the citizenship of any Jordanian except by a decision of the Cabinet. As for the collective change of the citizenship status of the people of the West Bank, this cannot be done except by the adoption of a law.

Even when a law has been enacted for this purpose, it cannot enjoy a retroactive force. As the people of the West Bank were Jordanians and no law has been yet legislated to revoke their citizenship rights, it would seem more legal and constitutionally

correct to continue to regard them and their offspring as Jordanians with full rights and duties.

Given the fact that no law can have a retroactive effect, it would seem difficult to stop even the future generations in the West Bank from maintaining their Jordanian nationality unless they individually or collectively opt to renounce their citizenship in favour of another.

There is no denying that the 1988 national decision to renounce the former relations between the two banks has created a legal mess that was obviously not envisaged by the proponents of the decision in the first place. This is not to question the good intentions behind the decision, which were politically inspired to cope with a range of political considerations, mainly the Arab and Palestinian decision to accord the Palestinians a separate identity and an opportunity to speak for themselves.

Notwithstanding these noble motivations, the legal problems that arose as a result of the political decision should have been better appraised and reflected upon not only on the basis of national laws but also on the basis of relevant international law.

The arbitrary way the legal ramifications of the 1988 decision have been dealt with or brushed aside runs counter to the democratisation process that was initiated in 1989. It is high time therefore that Parliament be invited to look thoroughly into the matter with a view to recommending the measures that may rectify the various legal lacunae created by the precipitous efforts to cut off the West Bank from the rest of the country.

From a strictly legal point of view, the two banks are stuck together more forcefully than many people realise. Makeshift efforts to undo the effect of the law will simply not do. The sooner that both sides accept the fact that the two banks are more glued together than they think, the sooner they'll realise that their "catholic" marriage is here to stay.

Such an appraisal would push even harder for an ultimate solution to the Palestinian case within the context of the Hashemite Kingdom.

Democracy and political Islam

No inherent compatibility?

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Many societies today find themselves at the crossroads of two currents of history — the rise of democracy and the rise of Islamic awareness. Many Western scholars are debating whether these two currents are compatible.

The November 1992 issue of The Annals, the journal of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, is devoted to the topic of political Islam. The two editors of that issue, William Zartman and Charles Butterworth, discussed their thoughts on political Islam during a March 10 seminar at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for Scholars.

Mr. Zartman is professor of international organisation and conflict resolution and Director of African Studies at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Butterworth is Professor of political science at the University of Maryland and a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre.

Mr. Zartman and Mr. Butterworth contributed articles to The Annals issue on political Islam, as well as serving as editors. In the articles, Mr. Zartman looks at the question of political Islam and democracy from a Western perspective, while Mr. Butterworth reviews the history of political Islam through the writings of its proponents.

Addressing scholars, students, government officials and journalists at the Woodrow Wilson Centre, Mr. Butterworth said the goal of his essay is to call for greater tolerance in Western thinking on political Islam and "a more frank analysis on the problems of democracy."

Mr. Butterworth touched on divergent Western and Islamicist views on the goal of government.

In the West, a legitimate government is one that respects and preserves natural human freedoms and equality, Mr. Butterworth said. Political Islam, however, sees moral virtue as a greater goal than individual freedom, he said. "Freedom itself is not enough."

"We in the West are more concerned with safeguarding the freedom than with providing for citizen virtue," Mr. Butterworth states in his article. Criticism in the West of political Islam often centres on this point — "whether moral improvement is the proper

concern of government or not," he states.

His essay in The Annals reminds the Western reader "that we are not always so secularist... nor so democratically inclined." He called on the West to reflect on the evolution of its own democratic values, as well as the evolution of political Islam.

Mr. Butterworth argues there is a "failure in current Western analysis of political Islam to pay sufficient attention" to the history of its thought, the changes in the goals sought by its proponents, and the changes in the audience these spokesmen are addressing.

Asked what a democratic Islamic society would look like, Mr. Butterworth said today's spokesmen on political Islam are short on details.

"There is little discourse on government," he said. This lack of attention to the procedure of government is another point of Western criticism of political Islam, he says in his article.

Democracy and political Islam "will not remain unmixed," Mr. William Zartman said. These two currents "will have an influence on each other and we will see many mixes of democracy and Islam."

In his article, Mr. Zartman states that democracy and political Islam are not inherently incompatible. However, he states, "When political Islam, in the name of cleaning out the stables of corruption and alienation, promises to install a system where only those who subscribe to the true path are allowed into the contest for power, then the incompatibility arises."

Mr. Zartman stressed the importance of repeated elections in the effort to merge political Islam and democracy. "The losers have a chance to come back," he said.

When one party claims "for itself the mantle of the national religion, monopolising its symbols and delegitimising its opponents, open democratic debate and the guarantee of future free elections are hard to insure," he writes in his article.

Political Islam will have to be put "to the test" through the practice of democratic values, such as elections, respect for civil and human rights, a free press, autonomous judiciary and independent parties, associations, and unions, he said. USA.

Suharto

Indonesia's economic saviour

Reuter

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Suharto is a former army corporal and bank clerk who rescued southeast Asia's largest country from economic collapse and put it on the road to industrialisation.

The retired general, who has assured the military a key role in politics, was re-elected unopposed Wednesday for a sixth five-year term.

Since succeeding the late President Sukarno in 1968, he has brought unity to a diverse archipelago through shrewd political manoeuvring and ruthless suppression of any threat to stability.

Mr. Suharto, 71, has made Indonesia self-sufficient in staple rice and won international praise for birth control and anti-poverty programmes.

His economic policy has been kept in the hands of mostly U.S.-trained technocrats who have brought in broad reform such as opening up the financial sector, and laid down an industrial base.

The technocrats helped Mr. Suharto rescue the country from the economic shambles left by Mr. Sukarno, who died in disgrace in 1970.

The runaway inflation of the 1960s has been kept to less than 10 per cent a year and Indonesia is praised by donors for never having missed debt repayments.

In his budget speech in January, Mr. Suharto made clear he would stick to his slow-but-sure economic policy.

Cautious change has also been the hallmark of political reform, yielding only slowly to pressure for more openness.

A soldier of Javanese peasant origin, Mr. Suharto contrasts with the flamboyant, Sukarno, who declared Indonesia a republic in 1945.

But his apparent simplicity masks a ruthless political mind. Two years after crushing a coup on Sept. 30, 1965, the barely-noticed major-general had manoeuvred aside the immensely popular Sukarno.

Mr. Suharto took effective control of the country immediately after the abortive coup, which was blamed on pro-Beijing communists.

One of the worst massacres in history followed as vengeful Muslims and soldiers killed hundreds of thousands of communists and their sympathisers.

Tens of thousands more were jailed and the powerful Communist Party, third largest in the world at the time, was outlawed.

Mr. Suharto was named acting president in 1967 and in 1968 was installed as president by the People's Consultative Assembly.

Islam, the country's dominant religion, has been kept in check and Muslim extremists have been dealt with harshly.

But by the early 1990s, with the election in sight, Mr. Suharto changed tack and began wooing the mostly Muslim population, making a pilgrimage to Mecca and setting up a Muslim intellectual association.

In 1992, Indonesia became chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement of 108 countries and immediately tried to switch the focus from political confrontation with the West to improving the economies of the developing world.

During Mr. Suharto's rule, Indonesia incorporated in 1969 the western half of the huge island of New Guinea — now known as Irian Jaya — and in 1976 the former Portuguese colony of East Timor causing sporadic separatist uprisings in both provinces.

An army massacre in 1991 in East Timor put Indonesia back under the international spotlight on human rights, but diplomats say Mr. Suharto skillfully managed to prevent the international criticism from having any serious impact on the country.

He has steered a fairly neutral foreign policy which opposes superpower interference. In 1967 Jakarta became a founder member of the non-Communist Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Mr. Suharto was born on June 8, 1921, one of the 11 children of a minor official in the village of Kemusu. His parents divorced soon afterwards and he was shunted around among his parents and relatives.

As a teenager he studied Islam and traditional Javanese mysticism. He is said to still practise the latter, meditating occasionally in a sacred cave in central Java.

After a period as a bank clerk, the 19-year-old Suharto joined the Dutch Colonial Army and became a corporal. During Japanese occupation he joined the Japanese-trained "Indonesian Army" as a commissioned officer and after the war fought with Indonesian guerrillas against the Dutch.

Chance offers itself

THE PROJECTED meeting of the concerned Arab foreign ministers in Damascus on March 28 offers the opportunity for the Arab parties to the peace talks to intensify their efforts to help get the peace process resumed in April in Washington. Only the PLO is on record as having rejected the U.S.-Russian invitation issued to all the parties to attend the ninth round of the peace parleys. The Palestinian rejection of the sponsors' invitation, as Palestinians increasingly make clear, relates not only to the stand-off over the Palestinian expellees now in their third month in South Lebanon but also to Palestinian apprehension that the U.S. is going back on the Madrid formula. The Syrian initiative to hold a meeting, 3 weeks before the negotiations are to resume on April 20, can therefore be seen as a genuine effort to convince the Palestinian side that, on balance, it would be more prudent for all the Arab parties to resume the talks with Israel, now that the U.S. has pledged to play an "active role" in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and a U.N.-sanctions plan has been formulated to solve the dilemma of the exiled Palestinians.

No matter what progress may result from the resumption of the talks, it seems that a collective Arab position needs to be taken.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington and his talks with President Bill Clinton might still bear fruit and produce a satisfactory outcome based on the six-point plan put forward by the Palestinians and initially considered by the U.S. It would be foolish for the U.S. and Israel to think that it would be easy for the other Arab parties to attend without the Palestinians. It would also be naive of them to expect Syria to enter into a separate deal with Israel. Syria, like all the other Arab partners, is genuinely interested in real peace. Jordan has repeatedly warned that this might be the last opportunity for peace in the region. Jordan wants the talks to resume, but finds no logic in the talks resuming without the Palestinians.

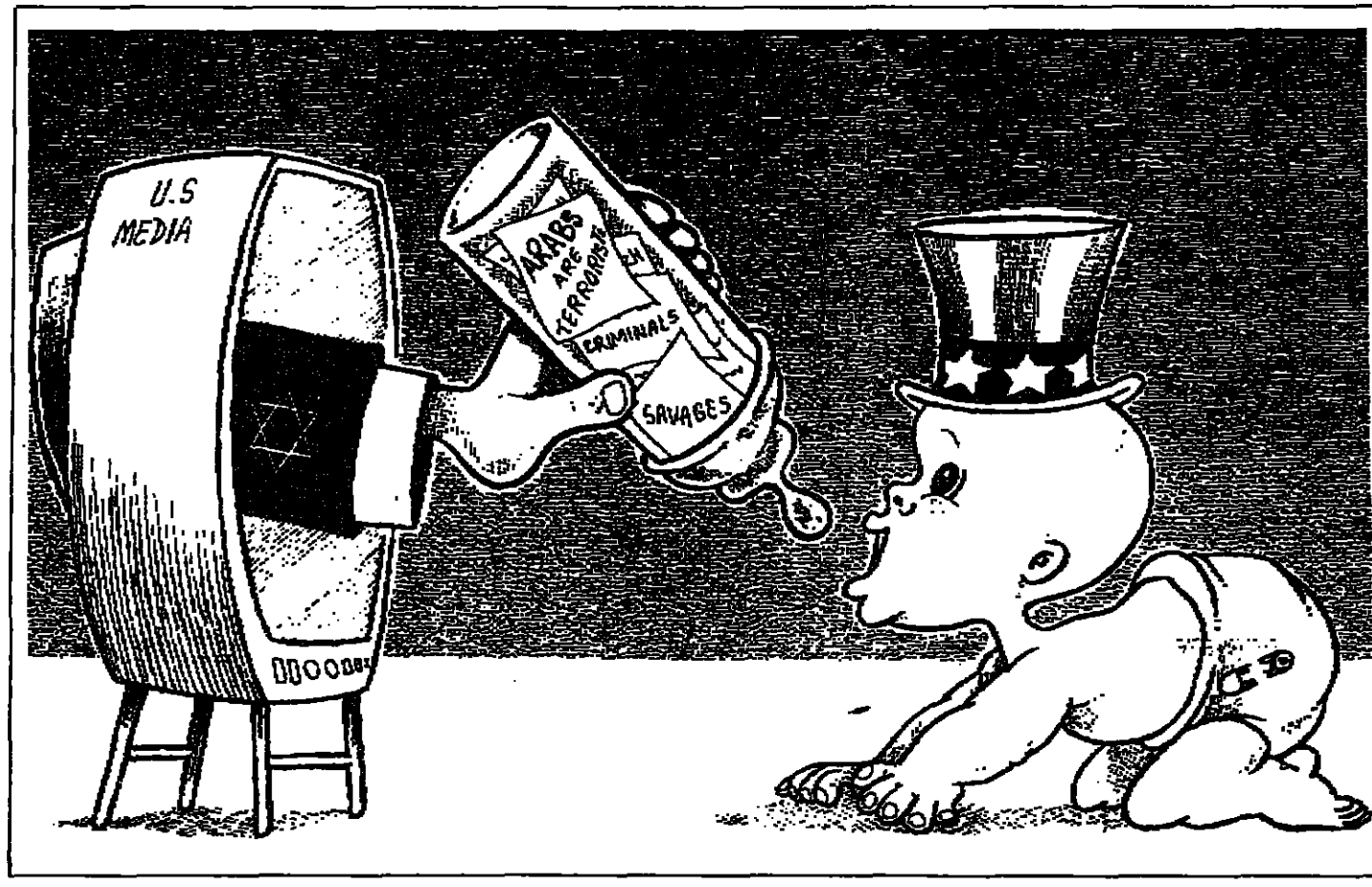
Whatever resolution the Arabs might take at the Damascus meeting will surely be honoured by the Palestinians. After all, this is the basis of a collective Arab stand where the majority view can be expected to prevail.

The ball now is in the Israel and the U.S. court. They alone can effectively defuse the expellee problem once and for all. That Rabin is now in Washington offers a rare opportunity for President Clinton to wrap up a deal on the Palestinian deportees in time for the next round of peace negotiations to start in earnest.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said in an editorial Sunday that Palestinian heroic operations against the Israeli occupation forces will remain a legitimate right for the Palestinian people since they can not remain forever an open target for Israeli bullets and murderers. It said although living people cry at the hands of their murderers, they still confront them and resist all offences. Since the Palestinians do not have an army to confront the Zionist army, and they do not have military bases, planes, cannons and nuclear installations to face their enemy, it was natural that they use knives and sticks to resist the occupation of their land, the paper said. It added that if the Palestinians did not do that, it would be difficult for them to liberate their usurped land, regain their freedom and remove the chains from their will. What is happening all over Palestine of heroic deeds and resistance operations is timely, because the Israelis realise the magnitude of their illusion, which they believed to be a dream come true, the paper said, adding that the Israelis stand now in front of a truth they have always tried to ignore. Forty-four years since the occupation of the rest of its land, in addition to all of Israel's military supremacy, arrogance, support and underestimation of international legitimacy and the Arab Nation, could not give to Israel one day of peace. Today, it stands as it did four decades ago, totally rejected. Al Ra'i said. The killing of a Canadian immigrant to Palestine, the death of a Russian immigrant, an American, Polish or Italian who were deceived and made to move to Palestine under the claim that it is the land of Israel, should make the Israelis reassess their plans and thoughts, the newspaper said. The Israeli final victory is not when they defeat Arab armies and weapons, nor when 33 countries come to slay the Iraqi people for their sake, nor with the illusion of having a peace treaty signed with one Arab country, or twenty Arab countries. Their real victory, the paper said, is when they overcome the will of the Arab Palestinians in Palestine and in the Arab World, that, however is impossible, said the paper. The whole arsenal of Israel... its supremacy and arrogance and the support it gets from the new and old world orders has not and will not defeat a Palestinian fist, a knife or even a stick, it said.

Al Dustour said in its editorial that the final countdown for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's days in power has started since some time. The paper said the conflict over the authority between Yeltsin and the Russian parliament has become intense, which gives the chance for several possibilities to take place, including undermining Mr. Yeltsin's grip on power and other unpredictable possibilities. The gradual deterioration in the power of the Russian president and the emergence of important centres of power in Moscow at the present are identical to events which occurred during the last days of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which indicates that there is a prospect of the same scenario recurring, said Al Dustour. The paper added that there is no doubt that what is happening in Russia currently is caused by the severe economic problems and the deterioration in the standards of living which was the same as what happened two years ago when the economic crisis and its social and political repercussions led to the overthrow of Gorbachev and the ensuring fragmentation of the Soviet Union. Al Dustour blamed the West for the turmoil in Russian capital, saying that Western conspiracies had aimed at impoverishing Russia and undermining its economy. The paper said that those who place their bets on Western powers, such as Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, should expect their fall. The lessons learned from these developments in Russia should make one stop from betting on Western powers and to rely as much as possible on oneself, the paper concluded.



Human rights

A test of U.S.- Egyptian relations

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Hisham Mubarak Hassan bends forward when someone speaks. Ask him whether there is torture in Egypt and he quietly tells his story.

He speaks of being beaten on the ears by Egyptian security officers at a Cairo prison in 1989. "They kept hitting me on my ears," he said. "They were bleeding."

Mr. Hassan, a lawyer, said he has had surgery on one ear and doctors plan to operate on the other.

He was arrested because of a strike at a government steel plant and accused of belonging to a secret Communist organisation. Mr. Hassan said he merely belonged to the Bar Association's Freedom Committee.

Now he is on the staff of the Egyptian organisation for Human Rights, one of several groups demanding an end to torture and other human rights abuses in Egypt.

Officials deny Mr. Hassan or anyone else has been tortured.

"We have no torture in Egypt," said Mohammad Abdel Moneim, spokesman for President Hosni Mubarak. "President Mubarak never for one moment would allow it."

A U.S. state department report issued Jan. 20, however, cites "convincing evidence that police and security forces systematically practice torture" and said torturers "are seldom punished."

Bahaa'eddin Ibrahim, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the allegation was based on information from "persons who have an obvious interest in levelling accusations at the security bodies."

The human rights issue could become a major irritant to relations between the new Clinton administration and Egypt, a

strong ally.

Specialists on the Middle East are divided about whether Washington will get tough on rights, as many advocates demand.

"It may take weeks or months, but Egypt's human rights situation will be addressed," said Jim Zogby of the Arab American Institute, a private think tank in Washington that studies U.S. relations with Arab governments.

President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher have said they will raise the standards on human rights.

On Mr. Christopher's first visit to the Middle East, which began Feb. 18 in Cairo, human rights

early morning of Aug. 24, 1989. Nine others shared his cell, he said, and the 10 were "accused of masterminding the strike."

First, he said, inmates were brought from other cells into the corridor and "beaten by security officers in front of our eyes."

"Then we were brought out," he said. "At first, we had to run back and forth between two rows of officers who were beating us. At one end, guards held dogs."

Back in the cell Mr. Hassan said, they were lined up against a wall and beaten again. "I turned around and saw their faces," he said of the security officers. "They singled me out for harsher beating."

"Both Egyptian and international human rights groups have accused the Egyptian government of allowing the use of torture. Most allegations involve extremists seeking to replace the secular regime with an Islamic one."

probably were not on the agenda. His mission was to talk through such issues as Israel's expulsion of Palestinian activists to southern Lebanon and the resulting impasse in U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

Egypt, the only Arab country officially at peace with Israel, has tried to help resolve both problems.

Both Egyptian and international human rights groups have accused the Egyptian government of allowing the use of torture. Most allegations involve extremists seeking to replace the secular regime with an Islamic one.

Mr. Hassan said he and 59 other people, including engineers, journalists and doctors, were arrested separately in the

Mr. Hassan said he complained to authorities and a doctor confirmed his injuries.

In what he called a summary of an official inquiry into Mr. Hassan's torture complaint, Mohammad Fahmy, an aide to the attorney general, said it established that Mr. Hassan was injured "during unrest" among the prisoners.

"He was involved in" the unrest, Mr. Fahmy said, and his injuries resulted from it.

Bahay El Din Hassan, secretary general of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, said abuses by security forces are mounting. He attributed that to increased extremist violence that has killed 92 people since early 1992, including a British tourist in

سكتا من الحصار

King, PLO envoys hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

railed the peace process could be resolved by the next round of talks.

"We have about 35 days left (before the scheduled start of the ninth round of talks) so there is some time," Dr. Abu Jaber told Reuters.

The issue should be resolved by that time," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber did not provide specifics, but Jordanian and Palestinian officials as well as Western diplomats believe consultations between Arab parties and between the United States and Israel could result in a compromise on the expellees.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed that any solution should include Israeli compliance with U.N. Resolution 799 demanding the return of the almost 400 Palestinian expellees who remain in South Lebanon.

Palestinian negotiators directed by the PLO have refused to accept an invitation to the talks until the issue is resolved.

Dr. Abu Jaber would not comment on whether Jordan would attend the next round of negotiations with Israel, scheduled to begin on April 20, if the Palestinians stayed away.

"We want a joint Arab stand based on what has taken place so far on the peace process and the problem of the deportees," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi told Jordan Television that his talks in Amman focused on coordinating Jordanian-Palestinian stands and the stands of the Arab parties to the peace talks.

"We are keenly interested in having this Arab cooperation and coordination so as to unify the Arab stand and to bolster our negotiations cards," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

He said visits made by a Palestinian delegation to European countries recently aimed to discuss Europe's future role in the peace talks.

He said head of the Palestinian Steering Committee Faisal Al Hussein was accompanied on his recent London visit by two officials from the PLO's Political Department. "This is a recognition of the PLO and that is what we stipulated," he said.

"One of our brothers from the inside (the occupied territories) was invited to the talks, which is something we approve and work for. But the PLO should be present in all such meetings," he added.

Press law clears Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

as amended by the Senate to save time and make sure the draft legislation is completed.

While the majority of deputies see the draft legislation as an improvement upon its predecessor, many journalists were disappointed with it, calling it "oppressive."

Journalists opposed to the draft legislation argued that it puts many limitations on their freedom and leaves the government with too much power to curb freedom of expression in the country.

The draft legislation will now be referred back to the Senate and it will become effective when it is decreed as law by His Majesty King Hussein.

In its session Sunday, the House also approved a draft law on economic crimes as amended

by the Senate. The Senate abolished article 5 which gives the law a retroactive effect, article 6 which prescribes punishments for attempts to commit crimes punishable under the law and article 7 which bans easing of sentences pronounced under the legislation.

The House also held a lengthy discussion of the government's new regulations for civil service appointments. The majority of the 18 deputies who spoke on the issue urged equal distribution of work opportunities among citizens and an end to "unfair appointment practices and nepotism."

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the government will take deputies' remarks into consideration "and benefit from them."

Israelis kill 3-year-old girl

(Continued from page 1)

labourers.

Meir Tzbur, who lives in the Gaza settlement of Gan Or, said he did not know if the settlement could find or pay for Jewish labour to replace the 200 Arabs who picked its tomatoes.

"Arab labour is cheaper and is readily available. Arabs will work and Jews won't. That is all there is to it," Mr. Tzbur said, adding the problem was not limited to the Gaza Strip but plagued Israeli farms as well.

Israel is suffering more than 10 per cent unemployment. Labour Minister Ora Namir said her ministry would provide transport and a 30 shekel (\$11) bonus above the minimum daily wage to any Israeli willing to work on the Gaza farms.

The daily Haaretz editorialised that Israel's reliance on cheap Arab Labour from Gaza and the West Bank needs a "basic change in the moral climate that has reigned in the Jewish society."

But the paper added: "An increased suspicion towards the Palestinians will not be enough to bring about this change."

Gun dealers reported a spurt in activity as Israelis considered buying a gun for the first time or trading in small-calibre handguns for more powerful models.

"Once the need for a gun was limited largely to people who lived or worked or drove in the (occupied) territories," said Yaviv Ben-Yehudah, head of the Lahav weapons store chain. "Today the need seems to be in the middle of Tel Aviv."

Interior Minister Arye Deri, responsible for gun licensing, said the public already had too many guns, Israel Radio said.

In an army radio telephone poll of 3,000 Israelis, 72 per cent said they favoured the police call to carry guns.

Human rights activists have said that since the expulsions tense Israeli troops are resorting to gunfire more often, leading to the sharp rise in Arab deaths.

Sarid: Gaza will be PLO-led state

(Continued from page 1)

tion to put pressure on Mr. Rabin during his current visit to the United States to accept a solution to the expellee crisis.

"The U.S. administration pledged during Christopher's tour of the region to solve the expellees' crisis before the resumption of the peace talks," Al Baath said.

"We find it suitable to remind the U.S. administration that it could solve this issue and other obstacles blocking the peace talks especially since Yitzhak Rabin is now visiting the United States."

The paper said Washington should exert pressure on Israel to force it to implement U.N. Resolution 799 calling for the return of all the exiles, 396 of whom remain stranded at a tent camp in South Lebanon.

Hekmatyar hopes to form new cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

killed thousands of people since mujahideen groups toppled the pro-communist government in Kabul last April after a 14-year civil war.

Iran has expressed reservations about the accord, brokered by Mr. Sharif and signed by eight Afghan leaders, as it does not guarantee a share of power for Shi'ite groups and leaves open the key question of who is to hold the Defence Ministry.

Mr. Rafsanjani accused Islam's enemies of sowing dissent in Afghanistan and said Muslim countries should discuss ways of helping it embark on reconstruction.

The peace pact, he added, "provided favourable grounds" for Muslim states to look at ways of helping Afghanistan rebuild.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, regional rivals whose surrogate factions have fought some of the fiercest battles in Afghanistan since April, have both backed Pakistan's peace efforts.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Sharif said he hoped the Afghan factions would "sincerely abide" by the peace accord they signed one week ago in Islamabad.

Details of the pact have not been disclosed, but officials have said the Afghan leaders have agreed to share power.

Police look for timer in bombing

(Continued from page 1)

the mother of 25-year-old Nidal Ayyad, a Palestinian-American chemical engineer who, like Mr. Salameh, has been charged with aiding and abetting the bombing.

Mr. Precht said Mr. Salameh wants to tell Mr. Ayyad's mother "about his distress and apologies for getting her son involved ... he feels that Mr. Ayyad was arrested because he made the mistake of knowing Mr. Salameh."

Mr. Precht said Mr. Salameh was a victim of "sinister interpretations" of otherwise innocent evidence such as a bank account he held with Mr. Ayyad. The account has become the focus of investigators following a trail of money that investigators think helped finance the attack.

Morillon pressing for Serb concessions

(Continued from page 1)

corridor for evacuation of wounded to Tuzla, and a ceasefire. But Vesna Grubacic, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade, said that the convoy for Srebrenica was stalled on the Yugoslav side of the border for the third day.

She said it left Mali Zvornik on the Serb side of the border but was halted again by Serb forces before it reached the Bosnian border. It later turned back to Mali Zvornik.

"We cannot explain such a move" by Serbian authorities, she said.

Meanwhile, an attempt by U.N. peacekeepers to help Bosnian legislators enter Sarajevo to debate a crucial peace plan for Bosnia has been cancelled because of Serb objections, another U.S. commander said.

Mr. Ganic said his government would continue to press the U.N. peacekeepers to get the Bosnian parliament members into Sarajevo, despite Serb objections. He said the U.N. had an obligation to ensure free movement for all participants in the peace process.

Mr. Ganic said it would be difficult for Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic to go back to the peace talks in New York without the backing of parliament.

In Zagreb, UNHCR spokeswoman Alekma Lisinski also said Gen. Morillon would stay in Srebrenica until his demands are met.

Gen. Morillon was prevented from leaving Srebrenica by crowds of stranded and desperate people. Pressure from the crowds later eased, but Gen. Morillon decided to stay as a gesture of

U.N. troops mobilise in Somali row

(Continued from page 1)

were posted on the roof. Other military vehicles guarded the narrow streets nearby.

The U.S. military spokesman, Marine Colonel Fred Peck, said the demonstration was peaceful and that as far as he was aware none of those in the crowd were armed.

He said the WFP had considered evacuating some staff from Mogadishu but had eventually decided against it.

After two and a half hours of talks a U.N. official said they had no progress and would meet again. "There is no change on either side. They will meet again

on Tuesday," he said.

When the Americans came in, some relief workers had said the redundant guards might turn out to be a problem. They said the United Nations and other organisations should try to find them some alternative employment.

Col. Peck also said it was U.S. soldiers who thought they shot dead two Somalis who fired at the International Red Cross compound in the southern port of Kismayu Saturday.

Earlier on Sunday a U.N. spokesman said it was Belgian troops who killed them. Other Somalis dragged the bodies away before the troops could reach them.

Algeria seeks blueprint for future

(Continued from page 1)

front (FLN), which was trounced in the first round of the aborted election. More are scheduled for the next three weeks.

On Saturday, in a neutral kick-off, Mr. Kafi met members of the independence war fighters' association, of which he is still secretary-general.

The presidency said the talks focused on amending the constitution and "prolonging the period of transition, thus enabling the country to eradicate the roots of the crisis."

The presidency was formed, outside the constitution, when President Chadli Benjedid quit in January 1992.

Even whether to go to the talks has caused problems for some parties. The moderate Islamic party Hamas has been invited but wants the authorities some-

how to include FIS moderates. Beside the FLN, the Socialist Forces Front and the Rally for Culture and Democracy are among the most important of the 60-odd political groups. So far they have refused to say whether they will attend the talks, termed by the government newspaper the "last chance" dialogue.

The crisis is deepened by the unpopularity of appointed Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam, a former minister from the socialist 1970s.

He has no political base and is suspected of fundamentalist leanings and of being tempted to take Algeria back to the state-run economy of its early days of independence.

The economy is crippled by repayments of \$26 billion foreign debt, despite oil and gas wealth.

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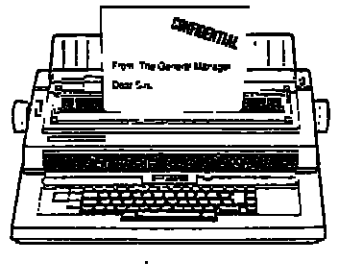
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World Youth Soccer Championship

Brazil overcome U.S. 3-0;
England beat Mexico

ADELAIDE (AP) — Defender Bruno scored a goal in each half Sunday, lifting two time champion Brazil to a 3-0 victory over the United States in the quarter-finals of soccer's World Youth Championship.

A pinpoint cross from winger Cate set up the opening goal in the 32nd minute, when Bruno headed home from close range. Cate also created the second goal in the 50th minute when his long cross went right across the penalty area, leaving the U.S. defence in disarray. Adriano fired a low drive past goalkeeper Jeff Cassar.

Bruno tapped in the third goal from just metres out in the 90th minute after a cross from Gian. Brazil dominated the game in the midfield, but found the American defenders in a determined mood. Cassar made a succession of spectacular saves to

keep the United States in contention.

Brazil now will play host Australia in the semifinals at Olympic Park in Melbourne Wednesday night.

Australia advanced to the semifinals for the second straight time by scoring a 2-1 victory over Uruguay in sudden death extra time in Brisbane Saturday night. Brazil is likely to be without defender Wagner for its semifinal. Wagner was carried from the field on a stretcher just before halftime with a suspected hamstring injury.

In another match England defeated Mexico 4-0 in a penalty shootout Sunday night after the teams were tied 0-0 after regulation time and 30 minutes of sudden death extra time in the quarter-finals of soccer's World Youth Championship.

On a sultry night at Olympic

Park, England advanced when it netted all four of its penalties. Jesus Olalde and Juan Solis missed kicks for Mexico.

England now will play Ghana in the semifinals in Sydney Wednesday night.

The Englishmen equalled their previous best finish in the tournament. They also reached the semifinals in 1981. Jamie Pollock, Darren Caskey, Alan Thompson and Chris Bart Williams were successful with penalty kicks for England in the shootout, while Francisco Amante, Rafael Astivia and Carlos Gonzalez netted for Mexico.

Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson clinched the victory with a brilliant save against captain Solis' penalty, Mexico's fifth. The match was watched by a crowd of 11,047.

Barcelona tighten grip
with win over Deportivo

BARCELONA (Agencies) — Title-holders Barcelona tightened their grip on the Spanish League leadership when they beat rivals Deportivo Coruna 3-0 at Camp Nou Stadium Saturday.

The win lifted Barcelona two points clear of Real Madrid, and left Deportivo, leaders until 10 days ago, three points off the pace.

The scoreline reflected Barcelona's superiority but told nothing of a pulsating first half in which Deportivo could have had the game won in the first 25 minutes.

The visitors, revelations of the season, started with an attacking flourish, which threatened to sweep Barcelona off the pitch.

Repeatedly getting behind the home defence, they created chance after chance, notably for striker Claudio Barragan. Only erratic shooting, desperate last-minute defence and the frantically extended limbs of goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta kept them out.

Deportivo smothered Barcelona's attacks in midfield and it seemed just a matter of time before their flair and energy would yield a goal.

But the break went the other way.

In the 26th minute, Barcelona's international midfielder Juan Goikoetxea picked up a ball in the centre circle and burst forward 15 metres before hitting a 35-metre drive which swerved ferociously past the outstretched fingers of diving goalkeeper Francisco Llano.

The goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of Deportivo, who lost their attacking verve and retreated into a defensive shell.

The killer blows came two minutes before halftime when Denmark's Michael Laudrup flicked a perfect square pass into the

path of onrushing midfielder Guillermo Amor, who hit a crashing shot just inside Llano's near post to make it 2-0.

At the same moment, Deportivo defender Luis Lopez Rekarte protested about what appeared an off-the-ball foul by Barcelona striker Hristo Stoichkov and got his second yellow card and his marching orders.

Barcelona added to Deportivo's agony when Dutch defender Ronald Koeman converted a penalty in the 56th minute for a foul by Llano on Aitor Beguiristain which only the referee saw.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

In German soccer, a penalty and free kick gave VfL Bochum a 2-0 upset of Werder Bremen Saturday, lifting Bochum out of last place, handing Bremen its second loss in four days and knocking it from second to third in the Bundesliga.

Midfielder Frank Heilmann's eighth minute penalty kick and Sven Christians' 45th-minute direct kick snapped a 13-year losing streak to Bremen at Bochum and follows Bremen's 2-1 loss to FC Barcelona Wednesday.

The loss dropped Bremen to 10-0-3, two points behind Eintracht Frankfurt and four behind league leading Bayern Munich. Bayern retained its lead with a 1-0 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Bochum improved to 3-7-11 and 13 points, one ahead of Bayer Uerdingen.

In other games, it was: Bayer Leverkusen 2, FC Nurnberg 1; Borussia Monchengladbach 3, Bayer Uerdingen 1; Karlsruhe 1,

VfB Stuttgart 1; Kaiserslautern and Dortmund played to a 0-0 draw, Hamburger SV beat Cologne 3-0 and Schalke drew with Saardrucken 2-2.

In Portugal, Benfica moved to within one point of Portuguese league leaders Porto when they drew 0-0 away to Farense.

Benfica, who meet Italy's Juventus in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals Wednesday, came closer to breaking the deadlock in the 75th minute when a header from midfielder Joao Pinto hit the bar.

Farense's Brazilian keeper Jose

Carlos frustrated Benfica with a number of important saves.

In Dutch soccer, Feyenoord midfielder Dean Gorie scored in the final seconds to earn his side a 1-1 draw in all ill-tempered top-of-the-table clash with PSV Eindhoven.

PSV's Danish defender Jan Heinze was sent off a few minutes from the end after being cautioned twice. He was one of eight men booked, six of them PSV players.

Dutch league leaders PSV looked as if they would put some daylight between themselves and second-placed Feyenoord when Romario put them ahead after only 10 minutes.

But Gorie's late strike meant that goal difference still separates the two clubs.

Ajax Amsterdam benefitted from the stalemate in Rotterdam, winning 2-1 at home to RKC Waalwijk to close the gap on the leading pair to just two points.

Marciano Vink scored for Ajax in the 68th minute and RKC's Jos van Herpen helped them to victory eight minutes later with an own goal.

15-year-old stuns skating world

PRAGUE (AP) — Fifteen year old Oksana Baiul of Ukraine made a smashing debut to win the women's title Saturday at the World Figure Skating Cham-

pionships, her first international competition.

Crossing herself to start and finishing with a girlish clap of excitement, Baiul did five triple

jumps on the ice but it was her sassy show to a Broadway medley from "A Chorus Line" and "Cabaret" that gave her the gold.

That, and a dismal performance from American Nancy Kerrigan, the U.S. champion and Olympic bronze medalist who seemed to be battling a bad case of the nerves all week.

The United States won no medals at the World Championships, the first time since the years 1962-64 following the plane crash that killed the entire team en route to the 1961 World Championships in Prague.

Surya Bonaly, with her typically aggressive but less artistic performance, came in second among the women. China's rising star, Chen Lu, won the bronze medal for the second time in a row.

Fourth went to Japan's Yuka Sato, and fifth to Kerrigan.

Baiul has all the toughest jumps — although she says she plans to add more — but it is her

coltish energy as she bounces, bumps and wiggles to the music that makes the audience hers.

She makes them wait, however, before she starts, after her name is announced and the crowd quiets, she pauses and "listens to my skates."

She giggled as she left the rink and cried when she saw her results.

"The tear drops were God's kisses from my mother," said Baiul. Her mother, a factory worker, died two years ago and her father when she was 2.

Baiul first turned heads in January, when she placed second in the European Championships.

Kerrigan skated perhaps the most disappointing programme of her career. She started my touching her hand to the ice on a triple flip and then did a single instead of a triple lutz, at which point a flash of dismay crossed her face.

Lazio draw
with Milan

MILAN (R) — Paul Gascoigne capped a brilliant performance with a goal as he helped lead an inspired Lazio recovery for a 2-2 draw with runaway Italian League leaders AC Milan Sunday.

Lazio stormed back from a two-goal deficit with a stirring second-half performance to clinch a draw in Rome's Olympic Stadium with an 85th-minute header from defender Cristiano Bergodi.

Lazio went close to scoring several times in the second half but could not stop Milan from stretching their unbeaten league run to 38 games and keeping intact their 11-point lead over Internazionale.

Milan's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin scored his 11th goal in 11 league games to give them a 10th-minute lead and in the 38th-minute Milan went 2-0 up when Lazio's Dutch forward Aaron Winter headed past keeper Fernando Orsi into his own net.



England opener Robin Smith on-drives off-spinner Muthiah Muralidaran to the boundary to reach his first overseas test century on the second day of the test against Sri Lanka. The wicket-keeper is Ashley De Silva (AFP photo)

England's spin nightmare
continues in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — England collapsed after a good start and was all out Sunday for 300 runs, losing eight wickets to a Sri Lankan spin pair in the first innings of the one-off test.

In reply, Sri Lanka closed the second day on 140 for 1 after openers Roshan Mahanama (64) and unbeaten Chandika Hathurusinghe clobbered spin and pace alike.

The English total was far less than hoped earlier in the day when part time opener Robin Smith (120) completed his first test century outside England and shared a 122 run partnership for the fourth wicket with skipper Alec Stewart (63).

Carbajal beats Gonzalez

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Michael Carbajal weights 40 kilograms Saturday night, he was a giant.

And he had to be to beat Humberto Gonzalez in a seven round war that had a crowd of about 6,400 at the Hilton Center screaming themselves hoarse from the opening bell to the wild finale.

Carbajal had been knocked down twice by Gonzalez 40.3 kilos and appeared to be on the verge of losing his light flyweight title. Then, Carbajal hurt Gonzalez badly about midway through the seventh round and then knocked him out with a right and left hook to the head with one second remaining in the round.

"I wasn't worried," Carbajal said. "I was confident. I got knocked down twice but I knew he couldn't knock me out."

"I'm a real champion. I get up. I knock him down."

Carbajal not only kept his 1BF share of the 40.6 kilo (100 pound) title. He also won the WBC championships.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♠ Q 10 9 5 2

♥ A 8 6 4

♦ A

♣ Q 10 2

EAST ♠ J 6 3

♥ 7 5 4 10 9

♦ Q 9 7 4 3

♣ K 8 5 5

SOUTH ♠ K 7

♥ J 7 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ A J 8 7 4

The bidding:

South West North East

Pass Pass 1 + Pass

2 + Pass 3 + Pass

Pass Pass

worthy adversary.

Opposite a passed partner.

North's raise to three clubs was a tactical ploy to stifle competition.

This was a relatively safe maneuver—as a passed hand South had to have a long club suit for the two-

over-one response, since North was under no obligation to bid again.

South could see no game and passed.

West led the five of hearts, ducked to East's queen. Declarer followed low on the club return.

West won the king and reverted to a heart. Declarer rose with the ace and led a spade to the king, which held. A spade back was again ducked smoothly by West and the nine lost to the jack. East cashed the king of hearts and continued the suit.

Declarer ruffed high and drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. Convinced by the picture West drew by withholding the ace of spades, declarer placed East with that card. So the queen of spades was led for a ruffing finesse, and run when East followed low.

Down one.

Opening lead: Five of ♠

For a more part, your opponents will play honest cards. Once in a while, however, a defender will come up with a clever falsecard and fool you completely. In that case, all you can do is doff your hat to a

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Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Forget all the petty details and please others with the breadth of your viewpoint about whatever arises as you enjoy the double good aspect of Mercury trine Mars and Sun trine Pluto with the Moon in organising Capricorn.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Today is good for getting into statements, reports, documents financial activities and to work them out so you have a greater abundance in the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and visit the beauty salon or barber shop of your choice and get yourself in perfect condition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever private concerns you have can now be taken up from a very materialistic angle and solved in such a way that you have them in a fine fashion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Forget any slight or difficult situations of a personal nature and put into motion a plan of action for bringing material pleasures to yourselves.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get into the nitty gritty of your outside interests now and show you are the one who understands all phases of them and can make them work well.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have new plan you want to

work that is good for you but it is advisable to make a big success of it that are better known of all the angles of such a project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A very good day to carry through with whatever promises you have made to anyone else whether they be of a personal or public commitment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can look horns and have a difficult time with a sub-born associate you can act in a conciliatory manner and come to a new agreement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You find you achieve a great deal of value if you don't go running off to some outside appeals but stick to the activities at hand.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the chance to have some very good times now but make sure that you know the exact cost and get congenial playmates to go along with you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are some needs at your residence that you have put off doing that you now can arrange to attend to with persistence and steadfastness for best results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever desk work or similar duties facing you can be done in a highly efficient manner now as well, as essential shopping and errands that must be done.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"When you kiss me curl your top lip an extra 25 degrees. I like everything to be perfect."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEELA

WOGIN

ANGLAR

RECRON

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FEINT PRONE RANCID INDUCE

Answer: What the pressman's wife wore to the party—A PRINT

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THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1 Six

5 Machu Picchu

9 — twang

14 Full-grown

15 Central line

16 Matress

17 Motion

18 Flank

19 Tasteless

20 Government agency

24 Equine gait

26 Pies

27 Of the cheek

29 Runners

31 Entrance exam letters

32 Two and three ends

33 Converse

34 Melon

35 Broadway hit

38 Jug handles

39 Occure

40 Suspicious

41 Person or Gabor

42 Trench warmers

43 Light-headed

44 Mended anew

45 Munro's

46 Penutonium

47 60's game show

48 Intersave

49 Amble

50 80's sitcom

51 Prevention disease

52 Unexploded

53 Harbinger

54 Nudnik

55 Job opening

56 Ethnic group

57 Manger

58 34 Seer

59 TV's Connie

60 37 Smiler

61 42 Garco

62 43 Joint sealer

63 44 Cunt

64 45 Volley

65 46 Night flier

66 49 Follow

67 50 Vishnu

68 51 Part of CEO

69 52 Branch of

70 53 Cork

71 54 Feel remorse

72 55

73 56

74 57

75 58

76 59

77 60

78 61

Yeltsin ponders his future moves

Rivals demand resignation, backers collect signatures

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin retreated to the country to lick his wounds Sunday after a fierce battle with his supreme legislature which is threatening to divide Russia.

"Nothing is planned for today. The president is out of Moscow at his dacha," spokesman Anatoly Krasikov said.

Informed sources said it was likely Mr. Yeltsin would make a televised statement Monday.

The Russian leader is mired in deep political trouble after conservatives won a series of victories at an emergency session of the legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, which paved the way for his powers to be curbed.

Mr. Yeltsin held a long strategy meeting with key aides Saturday night, but Mr. Krasikov declined to comment on the outcome.

The Congress, led by Mr. Yeltsin's arch-rival Russian Khasbulatov, ended a stormy debate Saturday which appeared to give parliament the upper hand in the struggle over who rules Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, who escaped with his powers intact but his defences weakened, was denied the right to hold a referendum and accused of stirring confrontation.

He plans to hold a nationwide opinion poll on who should rule the country although it will have no legal validity. He can also try to impose emergency rule.

Both conservatives and liberals are starting to warn that Russia could be heading for civil war.

ITAR-TASS New Agency said several hundred demonstrators in the Siberian city of Irkutsk took

to the street Sunday to demand Mr. Yeltsin's resignation while supporters of the Russian leader began collecting signatures in favour of a referendum.

Both sides need the support of Russia's increasingly impatient regions if they are to triumph.

The head of the local administration in the giant Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk Sunday said it was obvious the Congress was incapable of solving serious questions.

"I get the impression that no one today knows which path our society should take," TASS quoted Vyacheslav Novikov as saying.

The dispute threatens the future of the government's radical but unpopular economic reforms.

"People might not be able to stand the shock of a sudden transformation but adopting a gradual approach to the market is like slowly pulling out a painful tooth," Mr. Novikov said.

The Congress, dominated by conservatives elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, stripped Mr. Yeltsin of one weapon after the other but left some of the more controversial decisions to the smaller Supreme Soviet, or standing parliament.

These include proposals to place major media organisations under the control of parliament and a decision on whether to hold early presidential and parliamentary elections.

After rejecting Mr. Yeltsin's proposals for a power-sharing deal and scrapping a previous accord that effectively gave the



Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (third from right) tours the bomb-devastated Air India building one day after a series of explosions rocked Bombay killing over 200 people (AFP photo)

Police find unexploded bomb in Bombay

BOMBAY (Agencies) — Police Sunday found an unexploded bomb near a railway station in central Bombay, two days after series of blasts tore through India's commercial capital killing at least 250 people, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said the bomb was discovered tied on a motorbike in a lane outside Dadar Railway Station. Police, who cordoned off the area and ordered all nearby buildings evacuated, said the bomb may have been left over from Friday's wave of attacks.

India Sunday called for international help in identifying those responsible for the bomb blasts in Bombay after investigators said the trail pointed abroad, possibly toward old enemy Pakistan.

A spokesman for India's Central Bureau of Investigation said assistance had been sought from Interpol, but declined to specify what sort of help had been asked for.

United News of India news agency said the government had also asked for help from the United States, Britain and some West Asian (Middle East) nations.

Friday's 13 devastating bomb blasts in Bombay bear some resemblance to the explosion at the World Trade Centre in New York on Feb. 26, in which five people were killed and at least 1,000 injured.

Two people have been charged with the New York bombing. Indian police say there is unlikely to be a direct connection, except possibly in the type of explosive used.

Earlier Sunday, investigators told Reuters that although there were no definite clues, the trail pointed overseas.

A senior police officer who is involved in the investigations said the well-coordinated operation had the hallmarks of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Agency.

"The ISI is at the back of it," he said.

Because of the intensity of the blasts and the type of plastic explosives used, other officials have speculated about a possible link with Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger guerrillas who assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Tigers are the only group in the region known to have perfected car bomb attacks using high-intensity explosives. Most of the explosions in Bombay were caused by car bombs.

But a spokesman for the Tigers denied that his group was responsible.

"We are not responsible for the blasts. We are not involved," the spokesman said in a telephone call from Paris to the Colombo bureau of Reuters.

Police in Bombay say other possible suspects include Kashmiri and Middle Eastern extremist groups.

Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan told reporters that explosives for the bombing campaign were brought into India from outside, but gave no details.

Meanwhile businesses closed in several towns in Kashmir Sunday to protest the killing of five top Muslim militants by security forces.

Witnesses and police have offered conflicting versions of events. In one instance, witnesses said security forces gunned down the chief and a top leader of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen after dragging them from a motor scooter in downtown Srinagar Saturday, witnesses said.

Police, however, said Nasir Ul Islam, head of the group, and Abdul Hameed, the group's financial controller, were shot after they fired at the troops.

In another incident Sunday, troops shot and killed three militants of the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen in a kitchen after interrogating them, witnesses said. Police said the militants first fired at troops and were killed when soldiers shot back.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, merchants shut down shops and vehicles stayed off the road to protest police refusal to hand over two bodies to anyone but relatives.

COLUMN

85 per cent of unwed pregnancies aborted in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Nearly nine out of 10 of single pregnant women in South Korea have illegal abortions rather than give birth, a new survey suggests. Some 85 per cent of 1,514 unwed mothers-to-be aged between 18 and 34 said that they had had an abortion, the survey, conducted by the state-run Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, says. Only 3.4 per cent of those polled said they had given birth. The others did not respond. The results of the survey were announced in the Korea Herald Sunday. According to the survey, all the women polled who were also college graduates had chosen to undergo abortions. "Most of the unmarried women who chose to bear children after discovering that they were pregnant lived apart from their parents and suffered economic difficulties in rearing their babies," said the Herald, quoting an institute spokesman. Abortion is illegal in South Korea except in cases where doctors consider birth to be life-threatening. The government has begun to realise that sex education is one of the most pressing tasks facing the country's younger generation, analysts say. A century ago, social taboos were so strong that many women would sooner hang themselves than become unwed mothers.

On Great White Way, show goes on despite the snowstorm

NEW YORK (R) — Despite the worst winter storm of the century, the show went on Broadway and theatres said business was better than expected. Needless to say, the Great White Way really looked like a Great White Way. "It's crazy, I don't know where they're coming from," said John Mitchell, ticket taker at "Cats," one of Broadway's most durable attractions. He said the house was about 70 per cent full. "Better than normal." At Miss Saigon, one of the hottest tickets in town, more than 50 people were in line at showtime looking for cancellations. Many were out-of-towners trapped in the city after the region's airports were closed before noon. "We came in and asked, 'anybody not driving in?'" said a Detroit man who got a ticket. And the storm did not deter bargain-hunting. At the TKTS booth in Times Square, where tickets are sold for that day's performance at half-price, business was better than expected. Ticket agent Richard Cipolla said that buyers were lined up down the block even at the height of the driving snow. "Business was off, but the fact that there's a blizzard in town, it's amazing that anyone came," he said.

Principal suspended over bullying death at school

TOKYO (AP) — A local Board of Education has said it has suspended a principal for 20 days for failing to stop the harassment of a 13-year-old boy who later was bullied to death. The case of seventh-grader Yuhei Kodama, who was found dead on Jan. 13, refocused national attention on the problem of school bullying in Japan's highly conformist society. Noriaki Mine, principal of Meirin Junior High School, was suspended through March 29, said the prefectural Board of Education in Yamagata, northern Japan. Kodama suffocated after being wrapped upside down in a gym mat. He had been picked on because he refused to sing and dance like a well-known folk-tale character. Student witnesses interviewed on television said they often saw schoolmates harassing the boy. Japan has attained nearly 100 per cent literacy, and Japanese children consistently score higher on achievement tests than do American counterparts. But the rigid school system is criticised for allowing frequent physical punishment and bullying of students by their peers.

Russian prostitutes accept privatisation vouchers

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's privatisation voucher seems destined for success — prostitutes in the city of Perm have begun accepting them as payment. An hour with a "lady of the night" costs one voucher — current market value around 5,000 rubles (\$9) — the daily Rossiyskiye Vesti reported. Four or five vouchers will buy a whole night. The vouchers, distributed free to the entire Russian population from last October, are intended for buying shares in privatised state firms. They are also freely tradeable.

Keating's win boosts moves towards republic

SYDNEY (R) — Labour Prime Minister Paul Keating's surprise election victory has cleared the way for Australia to remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state and become a republic, a newspaper said Sunday.

While never a major election issue, a constitutional change was cited by the Sunday Telegraph as the eventual outcome of the solid win by Mr. Keating, an avowed republican.

Dejected opposition leader John Hewson meanwhile abandoned key policies — which he had trumpeted as essential for Australia — after suffering a crushing defeat.

His face stony and voice at times shaky, Mr. Hewson said his Liberal-National conservative coalition would review policies which only a day earlier he had fervently promoted. He pledged to stay as opposition leader.

The former economics professor conceded his plan to replace six indirect taxes with a 15 per cent goods and services tax (GST), which he had said was essential to make Australia competitive, had been unpopular.

"If anything this election was a referendum... on the GST and... the people of Australia have spoken," Mr. Hewson told reporters. "They don't want it and so it will go."

By Sunday night, Labour appeared to have clinched 77 seats in the 147-member lower house, equalling its previous standing, after drawing a uniform swing in its favour of 1.98 per cent.

Five seats remained doubtful. Two of them may fall to Labour.

A relaxed Keating, his Dutch-born wife Annita and three daughters, posed for photographers at the prime ministerial harbour-front Sydney residence a day after defying political gravity and triumphing in a poll widely thought unwinnable.

The re-election of Mr. Keating "has guaranteed that the nation is on the way to becoming the Federal Republic of Australia under a new flag," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"The break is from constitutional monarchy is almost certain to see Elizabeth II as the last queen of Australia," it added.

"The move will likely see the governor-general (the queen's representative) replaced by a president."

Since replacing former Prime Minister Bob Hawke in a party room challenge 14 months ago, Mr. Keating has pledged to set up a panel of eminent Australians to study how the country could become a republic, with an Australian head of state, by 2001.

This would coincide with the centenary of Australia's conversion from a group of colonies to a federation of states.

Mr. Keating has also supported a change of the Australian flag, a blue ensign which depicts the southern cross constellation and, in the top left-hand corner, the British Union Jack.

Final French poll points to big conservative win

PARIS (R) — The final opinion poll before next week's French parliamentary elections, published Sunday, shows the centre-right opposition is heading for a crushing victory over the ruling Socialists.

The IFOP survey in the newspaper Journal Du Dimanche echoed trends throughout the campaign that the centre-right alliance Union for France (UPF) would win roughly double the Socialist vote and up to four times as many seats.

One-third of voters would choose protest groups such as the Ecologists, the Communists or the National Front, it added.

"Everything suggests the election campaign has washed over the electorate like water over duck feathers," the newspaper Liberation said. "Voting intentions have barely registered any significant change since the beginning of the year."

The IFOP poll gave the UPF 42 per cent and the Socialists, with their moderate left-wing allies, 20.5 per cent. A joint Ecologist list had 14.5 per cent, the far-right National Front 10.5 per cent and the Communists 9.5 per cent.

That meant the UPF could expect between 409 and 449 seats

in the 577-seat National Assembly, with the Socialists winning 90 to 109, the Communists 18 to 28 and the Ecologists and National Front less than five each, IFOP said.

What the polls can not easily show is how voting patterns will change between the first round next Sunday and the second a week later, when runoff contests will be held in constituencies where no candidate has a clear majority.

Many political commentators believe the race could narrow significantly in that week and an excessively large majority could highlight disunity in the centre-right.

"The opposition thinks it is already in power and is laying bare its contradictions," outgoing Prime Minister Pierre Berengovoy said in an interview with the Journal Du Dimanche.

"I think there will be a swing back, especially between the two rounds."

In a campaign with little drama, attention has focused on how the new government will manage to share power with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, whose term runs until 1995.

Pretoria, ANC stress need to prevent civil war

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — South Africa's top government negotiator Roelf Meyer and his African National Congress (ANC) counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday it was vital to prevent civil war breaking out in South Africa.

"It is most important to avoid the possibility of civil war here," Mr. Meyer told a news conference at the Kyalami Race Track, north of Johannesburg, where he and Mr. Ramaphosa were to present South Africa's Formula 1 Grand Prix motor racing awards.

"All relevant political groups to the constitutional negotiations agree on the need to ensure that peace prevails," Mr. Meyer said.

Mr. Ramaphosa, the ANC's secretary general and top negotiator in constitutional talks with the government, said the social fabric of South Africa was falling apart. But he thought civil war was avoidable.

"We have one of the highest rates of unemployment, with seven million people out of work. The crime rate is rocketing. The (violence) death rate has become unspeakable. The economy is in the doldrums."

"We must proceed with all speed to our first elections for the new South Africa," he said.

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi has warned negotiators that the country risks civil war unless an acceptable deal is hammered out for a post-apartheid society.

U.S. east coast blizzards, tornadoes claim 40 lives

NEW YORK (R) — One of the worst winter storms this century lashed the east coast of the United States Sunday, killing up to 40 people and leaving millions without electricity.

The storm roared up the coast from Florida, bringing mass evacuations along the flood-hit Atlantic seaboard, tornadoes in the south and winds that gusted at over 160 kilometres per hour.

Authorities said at least 18 people died. Local radio reports said there may have been as many as 40 storm-related deaths over the past two days but the higher toll could not be immediately confirmed.

In Manhattan, winds gusting to 120 kilometres per hour rattled skyscrapers Saturday, popping out windows in a midtown office building and virtually paralysing transport along many of the city's streets and bridges.

Meteorologists said the storm, which struck just a week before the start of spring and dumped as much as three feet (a metre) of snow on some areas, was similar to a summer hurricane with its extremely low atmospheric pressure.

Governors of 12 states declared emergencies as the storm barreled northward from the Gulf of Mexico, where it had developed.

At 0900 GMT, it was centred just north of New York City, and was dumping as much as four inches (10 cm) of snow an hour in some areas of New England where two to three feet had already been reported.

Officials in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts evacuated residents from low-lying areas. Weather forecasters said beaches faced further erosion after being battered by severe storms earlier in the winter.

Emergency shelters were opened throughout the region but

workers said many people were having trouble getting to them. And many urban homeless were seeking refuge in underground stations, bus depots and wherever a dry spot could be found.

"Flooding is going to be major," said David Rodham, director of Massachusetts' Emergency Management Agency. "It's going to be worse than the blizzard of '78."

The February 1978 storm was the worst in most Bostonians' memories for its four feet (1.2 m) plus of snow and the abandoned cars on highways around Boston. Eastern Massachusetts was virtually shut down for almost a week.

New York City dispatched 1,700 snowploughs to deal with the storm but officials said side streets would remain unploughed until later in the day.

New York area airports were closed Saturday and were not expected to reopen before midday Sunday, leaving thousands waiting at terminals.

The storm wreaked havoc in the south as it passed through Birmingham, Alabama, which has no snowploughs got 13 inches (33 cm) of snow. And Chattanooga, Tennessee, another city that seldom sees snow, reported 21 inches.

About two million people were left without power in Florida, where the storm touched off some 50 tornadoes or "twisters" which caused at least 14 deaths, Florida officials said.

A 36-year-old woman died when a tornado swept through her mobile home. She and her husband had moved to a government-sponsored trailer park south of Miami after hurricane Andrew destroyed their home last August.

El Salvador war crimes report to name culprits

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A U.N. report on war crimes in El Salvador will name the military chiefs, rebel leaders and wealthy businessmen responsible for human rights atrocities, diplomatic sources said.

They said the report is expected to push several top army officers into resigning and could tilt the balance of power as El Salvador approaches key democratic elections after two decades of political violence.

The United Nations-appointed "truth commission" will set the record straight on the army massacres, rebel assassinations and thousands of death-squad murders that brought this tiny Central American nation to the world's attention.

"Salvadorans will only put the past behind them when the truth has been brought to light," U.N. Secretary-General Jounros Ghalil said last December at a ceremony marking the formal end to a conflict that killed 75,000 people.

Tension has risen in recent days and Defence Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce offered his resignation Friday, angrily condemning what he said was an international campaign to destroy the armed forces.

The truth commission is expected to conclude that Gen. Ponce was involved in covering up, or even ordering, the army's slaying of six Jesuit priests in

November 1989.

Few doubt the commission will name several other army chiefs already under intense pressure to resign.

A civilian panel set up by last year's peace treaty listed 102 abusive and corrupt military officers for discharge or removal from command positions, but President Alfredo Cristiani sent seven to diplomatic posts abroad and kept eight more, including Gen. Ponce, in their posts.

Dr. Ghalil said Mr. Cristiani's move was unacceptable and the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton has led a diplomatic offensive for full compliance with the proposed military purge.

Diplomatic sources said those military officers who dodged the clean-up and remain in top command positions may find their position untenable once the commission's report is released.

Led by former Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the commission was formed under the U.N.-mediated peace accords. It took testimony from about 9,000 civilian victims or witnesses of rights abuses, questioned top U.S. officials and interviewed dozens of people implicated in rights abuses.

Right-wing politicians have questioned the commission's independence and authority while

ly confirmed widely believed reports that Qiao Shi, who until recently had responsibility for all of China's security apparatus, would replace Mr. Wan during the parliamentary session.

It reported that Mr. Qiao took over the leadership of the parliament's presidium from Mr. Wan halfway through Sunday's meeting of the decision-making body.

Li Peng, the premier, is almost certain to be named to a new five-year term.

In addition to electing new state leaders, the 17-day NPC meeting will amend the constitution and pass a new budget, a spokesman announced Sunday.

The parliament's work will focus on pushing forward the economic reform policies of 88-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping. NPC spokesman Zhou Jue told a news conference.

Mr. Deng, a delegate to the parliament elected by the military, was elected to the NPC's presidium, but Mr. Zhou declined to say if the senior leader

would appear at the sessions.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping is an outstanding leader who is held in great respect and regard," he said. "But as for whether he will attend or not, you will find this out when the session is convened."

Mr. Zhou made it clear that the administrative tinkering China touts as political reform will not bring any significant changes to the absolute power of the Communist Party.

"We will not implement a multi-party system or a Western-style parliamentary system," he said.

But he emphasised that China was moving towards a system of laws, saying: "We have changed the previous situation where there were no laws or regulations to abide by."

A senior economic official predicted that the parliamentary session would help speed China's progress towards price reform.

played Saturday as part of a civilian police force set up under U.N.-brokered peace accords.

They were among more than 400 men and women deployed in the northern war-torn Department of Chalatenango, officials said. It was the first deployment of National Civilian Police (PNC) agents since the force was created last year.

The PNC is to steadily replace the three army-controlled security forces accused of serious human rights violations before and during the 12-year civil war that killed 75,000 people before peace accords signed in January 1992.

The Treasury Police and the National Guard were dissolved last year and the National Police is to be phased out over the next two years as the PNC takes control across the country.

About 20 per cent of the PNC agents will be former rebels of the Farabundo Mari National Liberation Front (FMLN) and another 20 per cent will come from the ranks of the National Police.

The PNC's formation and training has been backed primarily by Spain and the United States. It is to be first deployed across the zones hardest hit during the civil war. PNC agents will carry handguns rather than the M-16 assault rifles currently used by the National Police.